

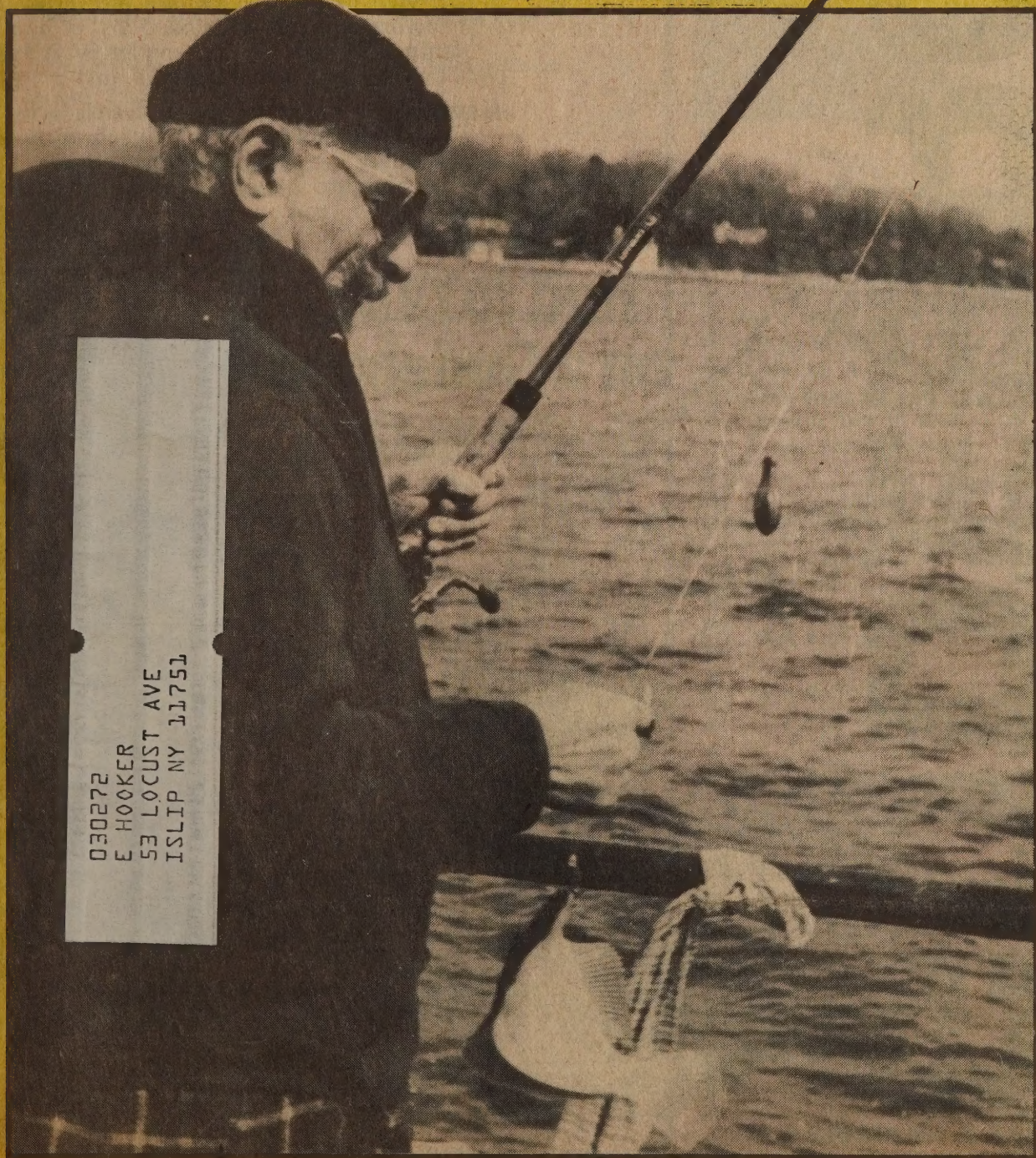


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The Long Island **FISHERMAN**

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

MARCH 27th, 1980 ★ ISSUE NO. 13



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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 15, Number 13

March 27th, 1980

Features:

Surf Fishing:		
BROADSIDE FLOUNDER	Gerald Hahn	12
Fish Talk:		
THIS NATION	William Muller	14
National Scene:		
ACID RAIN PROBLEM	Al Ristori	16
Sinker Bouncing:		
FLOUNDER PRIMER III	Matt Ahern	18
FOOLING FINICKY FLOUNDER	Andy Regina	20
PORK RINDS	J. Chad	22
BAITCASTING!	Al Ristori	24
SPRING STARTERS	Fred Guardineer	19
The Case For A		
SALTWATER LICENSE	Scott Simons	28

Departments:

Editorial	3	Boating	45
Pass It On	6	Fisherman's Classifieds	48
Chum Lines	10	Tide Tables	51
Fishing Reports	33	Solunar Tables	51

About the Cover—

A happy angler admires a nice flounder he has just caught. This time of year it is not uncommon for flounder to be sluggish as they come out of the mud, which can give an angler problems. Read the article "Fooling Finicky Flounder" on page 20.

COMING
NEXT
WEEK:

EARLY BIRDS

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PUBLISHER

Al Ristori
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pete Barrett
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Scott J. Simons
EDITOR

Fred Golafaro
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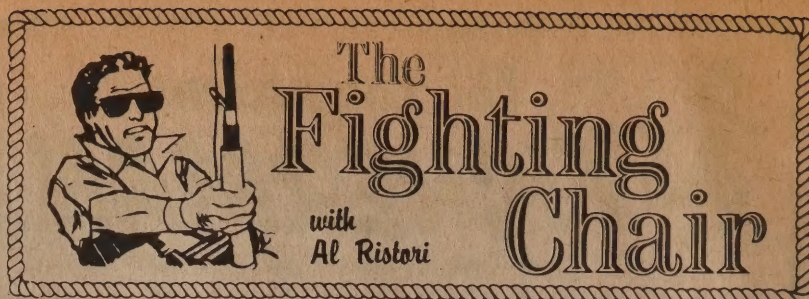
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BLUEFIN TUNA ISSUE UP FOR GRABS

The possible salvation of the bluefin tuna is at hand—if a close vote in the House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee goes our way. A final vote has been put off for two weeks, so there is still time for readers to write a letter that will help carry the day.

The proposal in question is an amendment to the ICCAT authorization bill which would take the Atlantic bluefin tuna out of the present definition of oceanic fish. When the 200-Mile bill was being debated, the West Coast tuna interests insisted on the exclusion of oceanic species from the legislation. In this way they are able to continue ignoring the 200-Mile limits of other countries with State Department backing and also get the benefits of the Fishermen's Protective Act when they are apprehended. Though it was politically necessary to go along with the oceanic species exclusion in order to assure a two-thirds majority for the 200-Mile limit, the exclusion was made more palatable to sportsmen when an amendment was passed limiting the definition of oceanic species to "tunas." That amendment, sponsored by Representative Silvio Conte (R-MA), was specifically intended to put the various billfish under our jurisdiction, though it also had the effect of providing protection for sharks, dolphin fish, wahoo and other oceanic species that can't possibly be classified as tunas.

While the Conte Amendment gave the Councils a means of limiting the Japanese longline by-catch of billfish, sharks and other non-tuna species, it has hardly proved satisfactory in preserving those species. With the State and Commerce Departments opposed to area restrictions on foreign longliners, the only recourse available to those concerned with billfish preservation was to make the longliners release all non-tuna species—dead or alive. Recent Congressional pressure has forced NMFS to concede that the Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee can issue a management plan that will keep foreign longliners out of areas where by-catch is high and this, at least, is a step forward.

The simple and logical solution to this problem is to bring all species within the 200-Mile limit under our control. Unfortunately, that probably won't occur in the near future due to the power of the big corporation/big labor tuna lobby. Though almost every country in the world (including our neighbors, Canada and Mexico) include tuna within their 200-Mile limits, the tuna lobby is only concerned with hanging on to their "sweetheart" deal under the Fishermen's Protective Act and won't give an inch on this issue. The proposal to solve our bluefin tuna problem attempts to skirt around the issue by only adding that species to those covered by the 200-mile law. Though the West Coast boats virtually destroyed the tuna resources off our coast in the Sixties, they left when there weren't enough left to bother with and haven't been back. Basically, they have no direct interest in the Atlantic bluefin any longer.

Representative Gerry Studds (D-MA), prime sponsor of the 200-mile bill, is pushing the bluefin tuna amendment (HR4357) and can supply adequate justification for it from a biological viewpoint. Though classified as an oceanic species, the Atlantic bluefin actually spends most of its life in U.S. waters, except for those that summer in Canada. The typical giant spends its summers anywhere from New Jersey to Newfoundland, and then winters in the Gulf of Mexico. School tuna seem to spend their early years in the area between Cape Hatteras and Cape Cod, moving inshore and offshore according to season. Tagging has shown that there is a very occasional transatlantic migration, but that is the exception—not the rule! Therefore, since there is a separate stock of bluefins on this side of the Atlantic that are almost always in U.S. or Canadian waters, it makes sense to control them on a bilateral basis—rather than through an international body controlled by countries with little or no interest in the species.

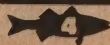
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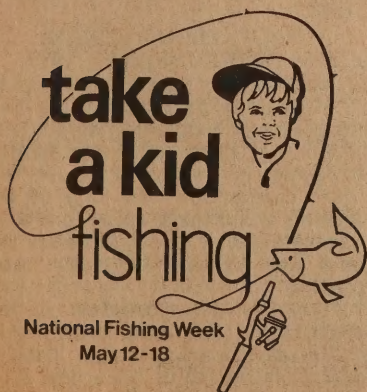
Though the Studds Amendment will not change any of the privileges accorded to the tuna industry, they have taken a position against any chink in the armor. A recent vote in the Fisheries Subcommittee of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee ended up in a 14-14 tie. The Studds Amendment was supported by such consistent allies of the sportsman as Ed Forsythe (R-NJ, ranking Republican on the Subcommittee) and Bill Carney (R-LI). However, it was opposed by Bill Hughes (D-NJ) and John Murphy (D-NY). I haven't been able to find out why Hughes opposed the amendment, though he does have a tuna seiner in his district (southern New Jersey). However, during Congressional hearings a couple of years ago, the few East Coast seiners were just as much in favor of bringing the bluefin tuna under the 200-Mile limit as were the sportsmen. We've contacted Mr. Hughes and hope he'll change his vote when the issue goes to the full Committee.

The problem with Mr. Murphy is more acute. The word I have is that he is uncertain about his position on this matter. He is said to be sympathetic with the needs of the sport fishermen from his Staten Island district, but is also receiving a lot of pressure from the tuna lobby and the AFL-CIO. The tuna workers on the West Coast are organized in a very strong union and seem to be getting support from the national organization—which obviously hasn't heard from the many sport fishermen in the ranks. Murphy voted against the Studds Amendment in the Subcommittee by proxy, and that vote may have only been a courtesy to the Subcommittee chairman, John Breaux (D-LA), who is opposed. The impression I have is that Murphy, chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, can be swayed if he hears from enough of his constituents. This is an election year and, though Murphy wouldn't ordinarily have any problem getting re-elected in his district, he has been implicated in the ABSCAM scandal and may have a fight on his hands come November.

Even if we do have the votes in the full Committee to pass the Studds Amendment, if the chairman is in opposition he can scuttle the legislation in many ways. Therefore, it's critical that Staten Island residents (and those in the small Manhattan portion of Murphy's district) contact him immediately to urge his support of the bluefin tuna bill. As the vote could come at any time, it would be best to try calling his district office (212-981-9800 in Staten Island and 212-264-9335 in Manhattan) or contacting him in Washington through the Congressional switchboard (202-224-3121). Mail and telegrams should be sent to Mr. Murphy at:

Congressman John Murphy
House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Room 2187
Washington, D.C. 20515

Voting on H.R. 4357 was supposed to take place on March 20, but was delayed due to the death of Representative Slack (D-WV). That gives us a little more time to organize a campaign in favor of the bill and try to shift over Congressmen Murphy and Hughes. With your help we can eliminate the Japanese longlining of 8,000 pre-spawning giant tuna in the Gulf of Mexico each spring and a great deal of the wasteful killing of billfish on these longlines—not to mention the many school tuna taken off our coasts late in the year. If the Studds Amendment is passed, we'll finally be able to put some real restrictions on the foreign longliners and may be able to start the Atlantic bluefin back to its former position as a major source of angling pleasure each summer along the mid-Atlantic Coast.



Al Ristori



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Programs and events will be held

during the year throughout the United States to bring an awareness of the importance of our coastal region to the public and governmental officials.

Requests for the buttons should be made to MECLI, Box 55, Seaford, New York 11783.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces that there will be nine public hearings on the proposed regulations for Atlantic bluefin tuna. The proposed regulations were published on March 14 to implement the United States' commitment under the International Convention for the

Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and provisions of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975, according to Allen Peterson, Regional Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

In general, the regulations prescribe measures which include fishing permits, dealer licenses, seasons, quotas, fishing gear restrictions, inspection process, record-keeping and reporting requirements and catch limits that are deemed necessary for managing the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery. The proposed changes: (1) establish individual vessel allocations for the purse seine fishery for school and giant tuna; (2) establish a separate quota of giant tuna for the commercial harpoon fishery; (3) establish a mechanism for adjusting the allowable catch rate for the handgear (handline, harpoon and rod and reel) fishery for giant tuna; (4) reduce the reporting requirements imposed on fishermen in the purse seine fishery for school and giant tuna and fishermen in the handgear fishery for giant tuna; (5) increase the reporting requirements imposed on dealers handling giant tuna; (6) convert the purse seine fishery for school tuna to an assessment fishery; and (7) prohibit the receiving or purchasing of Atlantic bluefin tuna by vessels at sea.

NOAA's public hearing will be held on the following dates and at the following places from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in order to receive comments or suggestions relevant to the proposed regulations:

April 11 (Friday) Colonial Hilton, Route 128, Wakefield, MA

April 14 (Monday) Holiday Inn, Route 132, Hyannis, MA

April 15 (Tuesday) Howard Johnson, 20 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI

April 16 (Wednesday) Holiday Inn, N.J. Route 36, West Long Branch, NJ

April 18 (Friday) Lake Wright Inn, 6280 Northampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA

Both oral and written comments will be received at these hearings. For those who cannot attend the meetings, written comments may be sent to the Regional Director, 14 Elm Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930, on or before May 12, 1980.

N.Y. TROUT SEASON OPENS ON APRIL 1ST

Trout season opens April 1 in New York State and conditions look better than usual for opening day anglers. This winter's scant snowfall is reflected in streams at lower levels than normal for this time of year. Waters in northern New York and at high elevations may still be ice filled and not suitable for early season fishing.

Three northern counties—Clinton, Essex and Franklin—continue to have later opening dates. They will open on the third Saturday of the Month, April 19, this year. There

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are some exceptions to this delayed opening and these, like other exceptions, are listed in the pocket-sized 1979-80 small game hunting/fishing guide issued with each license.

New York's statewide nine-inch size limit remains in effect for brown and rainbow trout, as well as splake. Details will be found in the guide and fishermen are urged to familiarize themselves with exceptions and other specific regulations before taking to the water.

Natural bait—worms and minnows—fished close to the bottom are usually the most productive means of taking trout early in the season. At this time of the year trout will be concentrated in winter holding pools, rather than distributed between pools and rapids. Experienced anglers fish such pools slowly and thoroughly.

Traditional Finger Lakes tributary streams should furnish excellent rainbow trout fishing this year. Barring any late weather changes, spawning rainbows should be in the streams well into the season.

Great Lakes trout and salmon fishing will also provide excellent fishing opportunities. Best bets are warmwater discharges, whether natural or man-made such as power plant discharges.

Details of where, when and how to fish for these popular fish can be found in two new, free booklets offered by the Department of Environmental Conservation. These are: I Love New York Trout and Salmon Fishing and I Love New York Great Lakes Fishing. Individual copies may be picked up at regional offices or requested by mail from:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Publications Distr. Unit, Rm 111
50 Wolf Road

Albany, New York 12233

Another new publication of interest to fishermen is available from Cornell. A 140-page "Guide to Freshwater Fishes of New York" contains illustrations and descriptions of more than 100 fish species and comes in its own self-locking plastic bag so it can be carried afield in tackle box or pocket. Copies may be ordered at \$2.50 each from:

Distribution Center
7 Research Park
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14850

The Department of Environmental Conservation annually stocks between six and seven million trout. The stocking covers 700 lakes and ponds, as well as 4,400 miles of 1,100 trout streams. But, stocking is only part of the picture.

New York boasts 15,000 miles of trout streams, fully two-thirds of which are managed for wild trout, supporting good trout populations by natural spawning. Managing these diverse waters involves applying special regulations. These regulations are listed in the 1979-80 small game hunting/fishing guide.

Although many lakes and ponds remain frozen during the early season, anglers are reminded that trout may not be taken through the ice—except where specifically permitted. Natural openings in the ice, such as where tributaries empty into a larger body, may be fished. Such natural openings are often extremely productive.

To help improve future fishing opportunities, all fishermen should cooperate with Department biologists by reporting any tagged trout taken. Complete details of the catch are important, including location, species, length, weight and tag number. Information derived from these reports help aquatic biologists

to evaluate stocking and other management efforts to benefit fishing for all.

Regional Fisheries Manager Bob Lange reports that Long Island anglers concerned about the expense of travelling upstate for trout fishing this spring should consider trying one of Long Island's premier trout fishing streams. Two of them, the Connetquot River and Nissequogue River, are intensively managed for trout fishing by the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission. Anglers may enjoy flies-only fishing for heavily stocked jumbo trout for a fee of \$5 per four-hour season. The pristine setting and quality of the fishing make these

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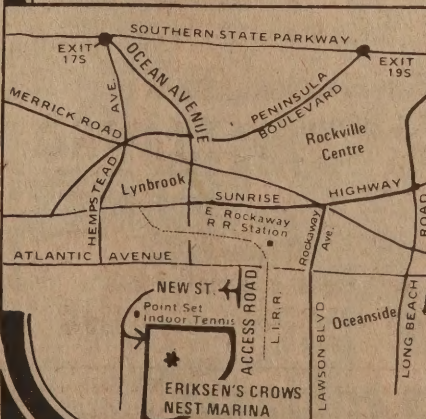
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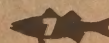
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streams among the best trout waters in the state. Reservations are a must for opening day and weekends. Information on reservations and special regulations may be had by calling (516) 581-1105 for the Connetquot and (516) 265-1054 for the Nissequogue.

Top-quality trout fishing is also available on the Carmans River within Southhaven Park, operated by Suffolk County. Stream and pond fishing available for a \$1 daily fee. Rental boats are also available. Call (516) 286-1040 for information on special regulations and additional details.

Anglers may request a detailed listing of all trout stocking locations on Long Island by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Trout Stocking List
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
Bldg. 40, SUNY
Stony Brook, NY 11794

MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS FOR ATLANTIC MACKEREL NOW IN EFFECT

New management regulations are now in effect for the United States fisheries for Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic squids conducted off the United States' East Coast, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced. The foreign fisheries regulations for these two species, which were first implemented in 1977, continue to be in effect.

The regulations for the United States fisheries establish:

1. A federal fisheries permit system for commercial fishing vessels and charter/party boats that catch more than 100 lbs. of mackerel or squids per fishing trip;
2. Reporting systems for operators of permitted vessels that catch mackerel or squids and for fish dealers and processors who purchase these species from fishermen;
3. Annual catch levels by species;
4. A fishing year from April 1 to the following March 31.

To implement these provisions in an orderly fashion, United States fishing vessels that currently are catching mackerel or squids should submit completed permit applications to the National Marine Fisheries Service by April 12, 1980. The application forms can be obtained from National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Section, State Fish Pier, Gloucester, MA 01930. Many of the vessels that will need these new permits already are permitted for participation in the Atlantic groundfish or herring fisheries. These vessels are being notified individually of these new regulations. Fishing vessel operators will report their catch of mackerel or squids on the same forms now in use for groundfish and herring.

These regulations implement Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)

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prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and approved by NOAA. During the preparation of these FMPs, the Council held public meetings in the New England, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic areas. Preparation of FMPs and implementation of their conservation and management measures is authorized by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

CHUM LINES

My question is about NCP thread. I mean homemade NCP thread. This may seem ridiculous, but I am very curious and could not resist writing you for assistance. I hope you can help me out. I am in the process of building a flounder rod to help pass away some of the boring winter. I was thinking about NCP thread and wondered, if I were to take a regular spool of rod winding thread and soak it in color preserver a few times, would this work the same as regular NCP thread. **B. McCormick, Glendale, N.Y.**

Your question is a new one on me, but since I've been making rods for fun and for profit for too many years, I think I can make a stab at an answer. As you know, NCP thread (no color preservative) was a major breakthrough in rod making because it eliminated a step: of color preserving before finishing with varnish, urethane or epoxy. The reason the question took me by surprise is that I can't imagine why you would want to use anything but NCP for two reasons. First, it is available and not very expensive and second, unless you are fastidious in applying or soaking the thread you will get different color densities when you varnish or epoxy. These differences may be very subtle, but they'll be there. I'm not sure that the color preserver will penetrate through many layers of tightly wound thread. I also think the spool will take a long time to dry and because of very small spaces between the thread layers, the color preservative may accumulate. If you read the instructions on a bottle of color preservative, it will tell you to apply liberally, but to remove excess. It will be impossible to remove excess on a spool. The best way to color-preserve regular rod winding nylon is to apply color preservative when the thread is on the rod. However, most rod makers agree that NCP thread is the best way to go. **W. A. Muller**

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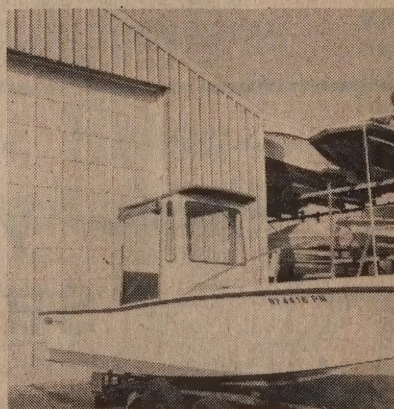
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aspects of fishing.

I would like to know if you can give me some advice on purchasing a portable fish finder and a locator and sounder.

I do most of my fishing from rented skiffs, using outboard motors from 9.9 - 35 horsepower.

I narrowed my decision down to the Lowrance Fish Ko-K-Tor 300 series, the Lowrance Locator/Sounder 250 series, and the Lowrance 235 Sonar Locator. Can you explain to me the difference between these three models? Which one is best suited for my type of fishing, also where in a skiff is the best place to operate the locator, without any interference from the outboard motor.

I like fishing for weakfish, fluke, blues, stripers, etc. Any help that you can give me would be greatly appreciated. J. J. Nesselthaler, Brooklyn, N.Y.

It is extremely hard to give specific advice about fishing apparatus that requires the personal touch and decision of the fisherman who will use it. Depth finders are one of those animals. Fortunately, you did mention one specific brand Lowrance and several model numbers and that makes it easier. Still, it is better to make your choice after having first-hand experience with the product. Perhaps one of your buddies has a portable depth finder and a trip with him or them will give you more insight than I can provide on these pages. With those qualifications in mind, we'll give you a little information, too. Obviously, the first difference one encounters is price. Model 300 is the most expensive, followed by the 250, the 235, and there is also a 150 model that perhaps you haven't run across yet. Another important difference is the range. All of these models have close-up cases; an important feature of portable recorders, but the 150 has only a single range from zero to 100 feet. The 300 features a dual range from zero to sixty and from zero to 120. These models also differ by the length of their probe cables and that is important in some cases. If your boat has a high gunwale or if you plan to run the cable from the bow to the stern you'll need a longer cable. However, when a small boat is used that is skippered from the stern, a small cable will do. Sensitivity. You would be wise to consult with your local dealer about sensitivity through the range of the various recorders you have looked at. More expensive models also have additional features that may or may not be needed in your type of fishing. The 300 model, for example, has an aluminum case rather than plastic and a gasket to prevent water entry when the unit is closed. Although we hope that this information will be helpful, we urge you to consult with your dealer and perhaps even arrange on-the-water demonstrations. Dr. W. A. Muller



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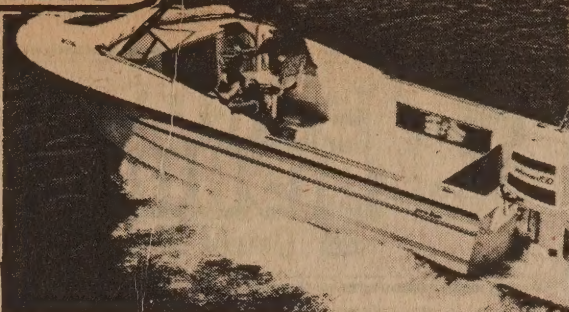
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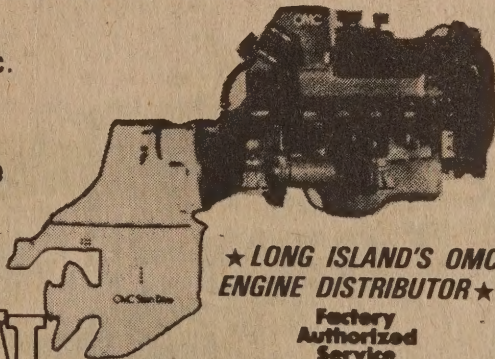
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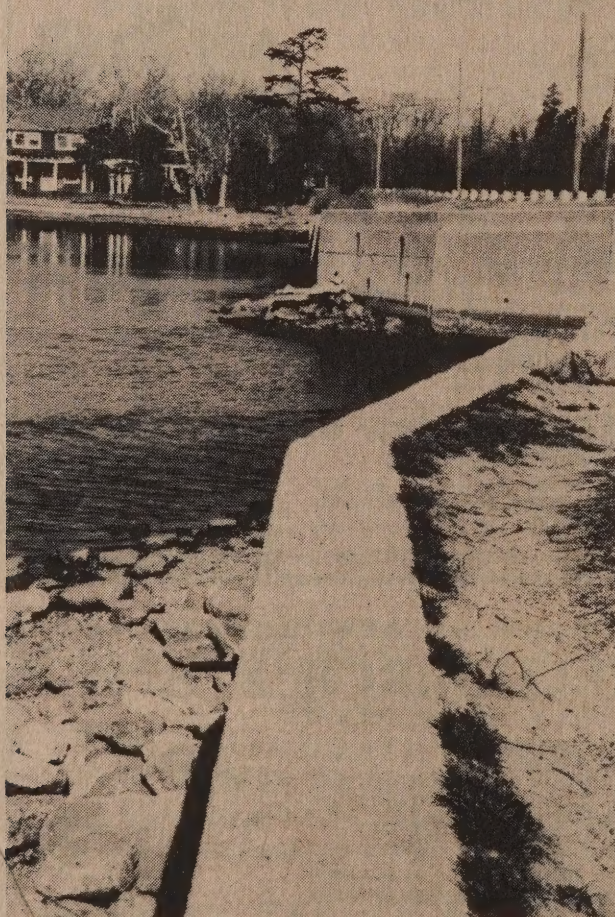
Early spring finally arrived and it looked like a great day to spend a few hours fishing for flounders. Although it was still chilly out, I could not resist the temptation to dunk a worm in the surf after so many dormant months. Just to be outdoors again was



ROADSIDE FLOUNDER

exciting—to admire the light dappling the water while re-acquainting myself with the pattern of fishing: rigging and baiting up, casting and working the line, and reeling in. Nothing like it, I thought. Of course, a few flatfish in the bucket never hurt anyone's first trip out.

Alas, it did not look like it would be such a day. After trying for several hours at some spots near Sag Harbor and seeing mere throwbacks caught at the popular Shinnecock Canal, I figured it must be too early or an off day and started heading home. Taking the Montauk Highway west (Rte. 27-A), I planned to stop at a few tackle shops on the way for a chat and local



Fishermen can cast from the high embankment or the exposed beach on the ebb tide for Quogue flounders.

information, when I came to a creek along the road in Quogue. Having crossed this back bay spot numerous times, I guess I never gave it much thought beyond an occasional glance. After all, who would want to fish in such still water so close to the road? And for what? Then I remembered that some of the sharpest anglers in Florida fish in places just like this all the time—along culverts and backwaters—and noticing a car parked nearby, I pulled up alongside to take a look. I crossed the road and walked a few feet past some trees to a retaining wall. About twenty feet below, two anglers could be seen fishing from a strip of beach that had become exposed on the outgoing tide. They had a few flounders in the bucket, not too many, but surely the largest fish I had seen all day. It was enough to convince me and I took my gear out of the car, scrambled down to the water's edge, and set up not far from them.

After awhile, we struck up a conversation and they told me a little about this place, called Quantuck Bay and Quantuck Creek. Although fishing can be erratic here, particularly when the weather gets hot, this back bay spot is always on their check-off list in early spring. For one, the fish are usually larger here than those caught at the Shinnecock Canal; for another, it is not far from the Westhampton Bridges along the popular east end of Moriches Bay where boat fishermen begin their spring flounder fishing in earnest.

Why here? Quantuck Bay, which looks more like a creek, is a small, shallow body of water (about four feet at its deepest) tucked in-between two canals: Quantuck Canal on the west and Quogue Canal on the east. These narrow canals lead to the larger Moriches Bay and Shinnecock Bay (via Tiana Bay) on either side and to their respective inlets to the Atlantic. The inlets are almost equi-distant and as far away as possible from Quantuck Bay. Consequently, the water is shallow and slow moving, and the bottom mostly mud, an ideal place for flounders to hole up for the winter. And it stands to reason that as spring approaches, these shallow waters will warm earlier, prompting flatfish to stir out of the mud, with some inevitably foraging in the back bay. After fishing here for awhile, I not only managed to catch my first flounders of the season, but all were nice-sized keepers. I was amazed, as well, at my stupidity in having overlooked this place so often while heading to better known, often overfished and crowded "hotspots."

Although flounder fishing in Quogue is similar to most bay areas, there are some peculiarities here worth noting. First, all the fishing is done on the south or bay side, not the smaller creek side of the road. But on the flood tide, the beach on this side becomes inundated and fishing must be done from the high embankment or bridge, if you will, alongside the road. Furthermore, some rocks and boulders on this beach become submerged and rigs can be lost if you are going too light. It is best, therefore, to use an eight to nine foot spinning rod with matching reel and fifteen pound test when fishing from the upper level. This will enable you to make long casts to deeper water, to control a large fish or a possible double-header going for the rocks, and protect your line from abrasion, as well, on the rough bottom at the end of your retrieve. Of course, if you happen to fish here when you have access to the beach, by all means, a light six or seven foot rod with ten pound test will be more fun to use. For the most part, however, you will find few obstacles here and fishing can be done from either side of the narrow channel under the highway bridge.

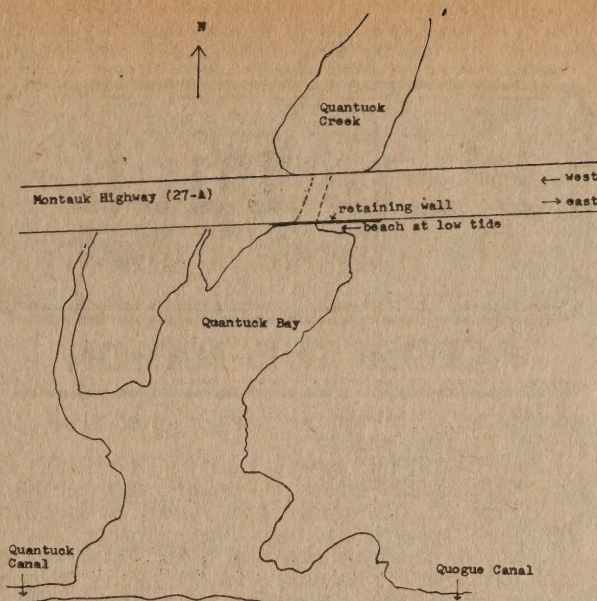
Flounder fishing at Quantuck Bay is almost like fishing from a pier. You can use the popular tandem rig with two #10 Chestertowns on twelve inch snells of twenty to thirty pound test, one snell tied to the middle of the other. A snap swivel tied to the main line with an improved clinch knot holds the snells, as well as the bank sinker which is generally no more than an ounce. Painting the sinker fluorescent yellow or red cannot hurt and may attract flounders. But if the fish seems sluggish and nibbles are hard to detect, switch to small

freshwater hooks on lighter snells and if water conditions permit, light rubber-core sinkers or split shots to hold bottom, or a sliding egg sinker on the main line above the snap. With any of these rigs, it will be easier to detect a nibble.

Once the weather warms a bit, flounders will become more aggressive, here as elsewhere, and you can probably catch them with little effort; i.e., from a rod set in a sand spike on the beach or braced against the retaining wall above. But during the early period, it is best to hold onto your rod. Nibbles are often subtle, the fish inhaling baits like a worn-out vacuum cleaner, then lying absolutely still, as if someone pulled the plug out. A finger on the line and eyes on the rod tip are essential to decent catches in the early spring.

Best baits here are worms: bloodworms, sand worms, or earthworms. Although south shore fishermen praise the bloods and north shore the sands, I find them about equal. And with the high cost and diminishing sizes of seaworms today, you might consider earthworms (redworms or night crawlers) if available at reduced cost. They are just as effective on flounders. A small piece to cover the hook shank and just a trace dangling below is the right size to use. Other baits worth experimenting with are mussels and clams. Keeping mussels on a hook, however, does require patience and practice, a lot of gentle twisting and threading. If you have difficulty, try a combination of worm and mussel on the same hook. Sometimes the combo is deadly when neither bait works by itself. Also, soon after casting, the mussel usually begins to disintegrate, creating a minichum line to bring a curious flounder close enough for a crack at the worm. Actual chumming, however, does not make sense here because you have to cast far out and the best tide to fish is the incoming. Clams will also work, alone or in combination with other baits, especially small pieces dyed yellow or pink.

On the Montauk Highway between Shirley and Shinnecock, there must be dozens of similar creeks and



back bay areas just off the road. Having discovered the potential of the one at Quogue, I am getting ready to explore some of the others, especially when more popular spots become too crowded or fail to produce. Like you, I prefer some elbow room when I go fishing. Before you decide to try Quantuck Bay this spring, how about that roadside spot you always meant to check out on your way to the fishing grounds?

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WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING and doing! Although fishing in New York waters is our primary interest and we all never stop learning about the fish we seek out for sport, it is valuable, from time to time, to take note of what's happening in other areas of this country since fishing and environmental

compared to striped bass stocked in inland waters, is that the hybrid grows more rapidly, thus providing sport for fishermen at an earlier age. These fish are hardy and are aggressive fighters. In short, these hybrids have proven to be an exciting development on the southern fishing scene.

SPEAKING OF FLORIDA! Many New Yorkers do not realize that the range of the striped bass extends from the Gulf of Mexico to Nova Scotia. True, stripers in the most southern end of the range are not as abundant as the species can be along the middle Atlantic and northeast states. They do not seem to migrate either and prefer to remain up-river throughout their lives. This winter, however, a good run of stripers has been taking place in some of Florida's rivers. The best action, for fish up to sixteen pounds, has been taking place in the rivers around the Ocala forests. Thanks to Henry Brandt for these items about Florida bass.

THANKS TO RICH HUMMEL. Rich is a fellow member of the High Hill Striper Club and this year is our Secretary. In a recent monthly newsletter, Rich shared with the members a column that appeared in the Sunday Boston Globe, February 10, 1980 and we thought that our readers might find it interesting. As a preamble, let's review some of the concepts of fisheries science, evolution, and ecology that we have discussed in this column over the years. We have always maintained that the only way to control fish stock and thus ensure good productivity for the future is to develop and implement good management plans. We have also discussed how fish have adapted and evolved complex structure and function for about 350 million years. We have also put forth the belief that man is part of the natural system rather than being apart from it as was man's view in prior centuries. According to this erroneous belief, man is above natural law and is free to manipulate nature for his own needs. Today we realize that man is part of the food chain, competes with other forms of life, and can, via his technology and pollution, have dramatic impact on natural ecosystems. Thus, recognizing man as part of the natural system and then attempting to keep to our species within the limitations of natural law is the only sure path to gaining compatible existence with all other creatures. The Globe article tells how at least once scientist believes he has found evidence that man and his habits has forced a rather sudden and unexpected evolution in Pacific salmon. Salmon have been harvested in the Pacific Northwest via gillnets of certain mesh sizes. This trend was considered, in part, to be a conservation measure since small fish would be able to escape capture, while larger specimens are impaled on the twine. However, this practice amounts to selective pressure since it favors the survival of smaller salmon. The effect of this particular activity of man is similar to the effects that might be produced in nature if a new predator evolved and if, because of size and ability of the predator, the new predator would seek out and eat only larger salmon. If the new predator was successful and became rather abundant, the pressure on the salmon would be great. Since all species naturally evolve in order to achieve the most efficient state of adaptation, there would be a tendency for the salmon to evolve into a smaller form. Likewise, in time, there would also be a tendency for the predator to change in order to cope with the new form of salmon. Perhaps the new predator would take up feeding on other prey, but perhaps it would change in such a way that it might be able to feed on smaller salmon. In turn, the smaller salmon might again evolve into a larger form in order to cope with changes that have made the predator a more efficient feeder on smaller salmon. On and on this pattern might continue. In the case cited in the Globe, the scientist reports that the species is becoming smaller due to harvest pressures generated by man. Professor Bossert, the scientist who reported the observations, suggests that the salmon are actually maturing faster and that observers in British Columbia have data to support the belief that the age of maturation is decreasing fast enough so that it can be measured. If these data are accurate, then one can

FISH TALK

with William A. Muller

ACROSS THIS NATION

problems are a common denominator—even if we don't all catch the same species.

FOR EXAMPLE: HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SUNSHINE BASS? Perhaps you would guess that this is some type of freshwater rock bass, or outsized largemouth typical of southern impoundments. Well, if that was your guess you would be wrong. Sunshine bass is the term that Floridians use for the hybrid offspring between white bass and striped bass. This hybrid is becoming more and more successful and more and more popular across the south. The fish are bred in hatcheries and then the fingerlings are stocked in freshwater waters. The abundance of freshwater baitfishes and the eager appetites of the hybrid have accounted for rapid growth and excellent stocking success. Sunshine bass in Florida average about five to six pounds, but they will reach maximum size of about twenty pounds. One of the advantages of the white bass/striped bass hybrid

PENN

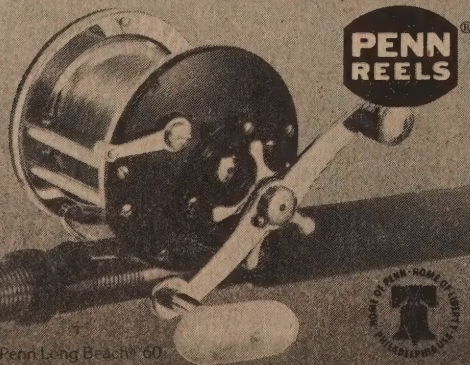
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predict that in about ten or twenty generations, the salmon will return to their native streams one year earlier than they do now. However, they will be about half the size of present pre-spawning adults. Thus, at some future date we may catch more fish, but the weight of the total catch will decrease. The life cycle of the Pacific salmon is approximately three years. The adults spawn in the river, the young fish grow to fingerling size, and then leave the river. In the Pacific Ocean they follow ocean currents in a great circle that takes them towards Asia and then as they complete the turn towards our coast, the adults pick up the "scent" of the streams, where they were hatched via their lateral line which is sensitive to the presence of chemicals from the streams that are carried out to sea. The lateral line plus other chemotactic abilities of the salmon enable them to sense the chemicals in very, very small quantities. They follow these chemical trails back to the river of their origin where they will spawn and die.

TOO EARLY TO ASSESS! The Globe report does not provide information on the quality or quantity of the data available to this point and in fact, Professor Bossert is cautious in his comments to say "maybe" and "perhaps" since he may well recognize that there has not been enough data compiled to reach final conclusions. If his theory is correct, it is difficult to predict at this time whether or not such a change might be beneficial to the species or harmful. It is possible that smaller adult salmon may allow the ocean to support **more** smaller salmon and thus the tonnage of the stocks and the tonnage of harvest will not necessarily decline due to the evolution in form. On the other hand, there still exists the possibility that smaller size may be due to other either temporary or permanent factors. For example, a change in the amount and type of baitfish in the Pacific Ocean may result in a slower growth rate. The presence of pollutants in the spawning streams could be affecting growth, or changes in water temperature patterns of the north Pacific could be influencing the rate of growth. In short, it is an interesting phenomena that is worthy of more study.

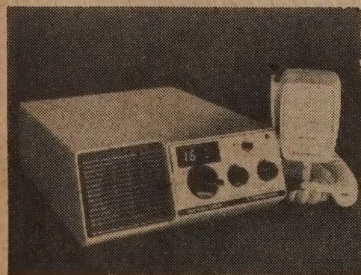
REVEALING THE FACTS MAY BE OF INTEREST TO NEW ENGLAND ANGLERS. Professor Bossert points out that management of harvest via the mesh sizes of nets is common. For example, on the East Coast the herring fishery is controlled, at least in part, via mesh size control. Thus, he suggests that fishermen may be exerting an influence on other species causing an evolution of size. Mesh size control procedures have also been suggested for other species from shad to bluefish, to tuna. Thus, if the study proves correct, this management practice will need to be re-examined.

SHOULD IT BE MASSACHUSETTS OR NEW

YORK? Don Kamienski wrote in response to our Chum Lines answer to a reader who wanted more information about flounder fishing in Quincy, Massachusetts. We suggested that recent runs of flounders in our local waters has been so good in some areas that it might be a better idea to make several local trips as opposed to one pilgrimage to Quincy. Don writes: "In this week's issue of The Long Island Fisherman, you suggested that one of your readers consider the Gardiner's Bay area for big flounder as opposed to heading to Quincy, Mass. While I have no problem catching my fair share of Jersey winter flatties, I tend to salivate some when I hear of flounders in the two to four pound class. You have now aroused my interest about planning a trip for flounders at Gardiner's Island. Perhaps you can suggest the time period that I should consider making the trek, in addition to where I might launch my boat, obtain some bait, and drop my line. And, if you can arrange to have the fish stacked in your recommended spot, I would appreciate that also. No kidding, I am interested in trying Gardiner's Island, and would enjoy your help." Well Don, let me begin by saying that the phrase "fair share" means different things to different people. To some, a dozen or so large flounder for a day's trip constitutes a fair share, while others must catch several hundred to be satisfied. It is those who insist on slaughter-sized catches that the appeal of Quincy cannot be denied. I discovered a long time ago that a catch of several hundred fish in the box at the end of the day can contribute negatively to the appreciation and enjoyment of that day since those fish need to be cleaned and if the angler is interested in high quality frozen filets, those fish had better be cleaned fast. So, before each flounder trip I evaluate how many my family needs and then if friends and relatives have put in a request or two. When I go fishing, we keep only enough to satisfy the demand and the fish kept for relatives and friends are donated in the round. I then only have to clean a half-dozen or so large fish for my own consumption. I bring this up because the hopeful flounder fisherman should realize that there is a greater chance for slaughter-sized catches in Quincy than here on Long Island. However, there is more to the enjoyment of a day's fishing than the quantity of fish caught. A key to fishing pleasure has got to be the company you fish with. Travel distance, expense, weather conditions are also important. So, how many fish does it take to make a fisherman happy? I don't know, but I do know that if I can go to Moriches, Peconic, or Gardiner's Bays, spend three or four hours, take home anywhere from a half-dozen to a couple dozen flounders from one to maybe four pounds, I'm very HAPPY. I get home early, enjoy a nice meal of fresh flounder, and I don't have the equivalent of "jet-lag"

(Continued on next page.)

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Have you ever flown over the Adirondack Mountains and viewed the numerous pristine ponds and lakes scattered throughout the higher elevations? If so, as a fisherman, you've undoubtedly wished you could parachute in and get into some of the great fishing that must exist in those hard-to-get-to bodies of water. Actually, it's just as well that you never had the

NATIONAL SCENE

with Al Ristori

The Acid Rain Problem

opportunity, as most of those lakes have been contaminated by acid rain. The lakes are still beautiful, but the fish populations have just about been wiped out!

Acid rain is an insidious killer. Like cancer, it does most of its damage without showing any external signs of what is going on. Indeed, there usually isn't even any external indication that anything is wrong—even after the entire fish population of a lake is killed off! Acid rain is created when sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, two gaseous pollutants, react and combine with rainwater. This problem was first noted in England in the 1880s and has long been a subject of controversy in Europe. While it's one thing to correct a problem of industrial pollution in the area in which it originates, it's quite another to stop it altogether. The usual method has consisted of building smokestacks higher and higher—allowing the winds to spread the gaseous pollutants far and wide.

The U.S. discharges thirty-three million tons of sulfur and nitrogen into the sky every year. Most of the sulfur comes from coal burning refineries, metal smelters and power plants, while auto emissions contribute to the nitrogen overload. The biggest culprits are Ohio Valley power plants and Midwestern steel mills. Their smokestacks put these pollutants into the path of easterly winds that prevail during the summer, resulting in Canada receiving four million tons of U.S. sulfur dioxide up the St. Lawrence corridor during the year. Many Ontario lakes have been killed off and the Canadians are seeking a treaty which will commit the U.S. to halt this intrusion on Canadian environment.

Unfortunately for the Canadian cause, their hands aren't clean either. Canada generates eight million tons of sulfur dioxide each year and 1.3 million tons of that falls on the U.S. Fully one-third of that pollution comes from the copper smelters at Sudbury, Ontario with their 1,250 foot chimney—the largest in the world. The situation in Europe is no different. Every country generates pollution, but the prevailing winds make the Scandinavian countries the big losers. Of 250,000 tons of sulfur which fell on Norway in 1974, only ten to twenty percent was generated internally. Most of it came from Great Britain, France and Germany.

Acid rain has very different effects on different bodies of water. If it has any effect in saltwater, it has not been noted up to this point. Even most freshwater bodies have been able to handle current loads without dire effects. However, areas with granite or basalt bedrock are extremely vulnerable. This bedrock lacks limestone, a natural alkali that counters acidity. With nothing to neutralize the acid build-up, the pH of such waters soon becomes so low that fish can no longer survive in it.

A pH rating of 7 is neutral, but even clean rain is slightly acidic at about 5.7, due to carbon dioxide naturally present in the air. However, when that rain gets down to an acidity rating of 5, fish begin to die if the bedrock prevents a natural neutralizing process.

Areas in the U.S. that are particularly vulnerable are such mountainous, heavily forested regions as the Adirondacks and Minnesota's Boundary Waters Wilderness Area. Evidence from outside the country as to the effects of acid rain is impressive. Twenty percent of the lakes in southern Sweden have experienced fish population declines due to acid precipitation. Some Canadian mountain lakes sixty-five kilometers from Sudbury became completely devoid of most fish in the 1960s. Not only did the trout (game fish seem most sensitive to changes in acidity) and herring disappear, but even such normally hardy rough fish as suckers.

We no longer have to look across our borders to observe the effects of acid rain. The Adirondacks provide a sad case history. A 1977 survey by Cornell University found that fifty-one percent of Adirondack lakes over 2,000 feet altitude had pH levels under five, with ninety percent of them devoid of fish! In comparison, data collected between 1929 and 1937 found only four of one hundred lakes in this condition. An even more recent study by John Kaylor, of NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center at Woods Hole, indicates that nearly one hundred Adirondack lakes that had a pH of 6.5 in the 1930, have now dropped to 4.8! Even in areas with soil capable of neutralizing present levels of acid rain, there is a significant short term danger. Acid can accumulate in the snow pack and a sudden spring thaw can then cause a sudden change in acidity levels at the very time that many species are spawning.

Unfortunately, once lost, these lakes are probably beyond redemption at any reasonable cost. The addition of lime to the waters will neutralize them, but it is very expensive and can trigger release of heavy metals from bottom sediments. In limed Swedish lakes, for instance, fish became inedible due to high mercury content. According to the National Wildlife Federation, some biologists believe that no trout will remain in the Adirondacks ten years from now, and that within the next twenty years, at least 50,000 U.S. and Canadian lakes will become lifeless!

The worst part of all this is that "we ain't seen nothin' yet!" Coal is the only abundant fossil fuel left in our country and we will be making ever greater use of it in the future. New power plants will be required to reduce sulfur emissions to half the current level, but old plants don't operate under such strict standards and the huge increase in coal burning that's sure to occur in this decade will result in even more acid rain. The only way to slow down this parade toward environmental destruction is to require installation of scrubbers and other flue gas desulfurization methods on existing plants. This, of course, will be costly and the consumer will, inevitably, have to pick up the bill. Yet, when all the problems associated with acid rain are considered (acidification and demineralization of soil, reduction in crop and forest productivity, damage to structures, metal, painted surface and stone work, health effects, and disruption of freshwater ecosystems), the cost seems very reasonable!

Fish Talk: ACROSS THIS NATION

(Continued from page 15.)

the next day.

NOW TO YOUR TRIP! It is hard to suggest a precise time since much depends upon how fast the water warms up. However, the best of it usually occurs in May and sometimes into early June. The best bet is to read the Fishing Reports conscientiously. At the first sign of improving fishing, call a boat livery in the area you plan to fish (see L.I.F. ads for phone numbers). The livery operator will be able to tell you how good or bad, and how steady or inconsistent the run of fish is. Most boat liveries out east have their own boat launching ramps and anyone can use them for a modest fee. These same liveries sell bait and chum. Your best bet would be to review the ads in L.I.F. and then call around to select the livery whose facilities suit your needs. When the season starts you'll be all set to catch those big ones. Folks at the boat ramp will also tell you where the fish are biting.

SPRING STARTERS

BY FRED
GUARDINEER

SALTWATER SPECIES SUCH AS FLOUNDERS, BLACKFISH AND TOMCODS CAN SOMETIMES BE CAUGHT IN THE SAME SPOT AND ALL THREE WILL HIT THE SAME BAIT... BLOOD AND SANDWORMS, MUSSELS AND BITS OF CLAM ON FLOUNDER HOOKS.

FLOUNDERS START THEIR HIT PARADE OFFICIALLY ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY ON SUITABLE BAY BOTTOMS INTO APRIL AND MAY.

TOMCODS ARE IN THE BAYS DURING THE COLD MONTHS AND OFTEN CAUGHT IN LARGE QUANTITIES. THEY LIKE BRACKISH WATER AREAS.

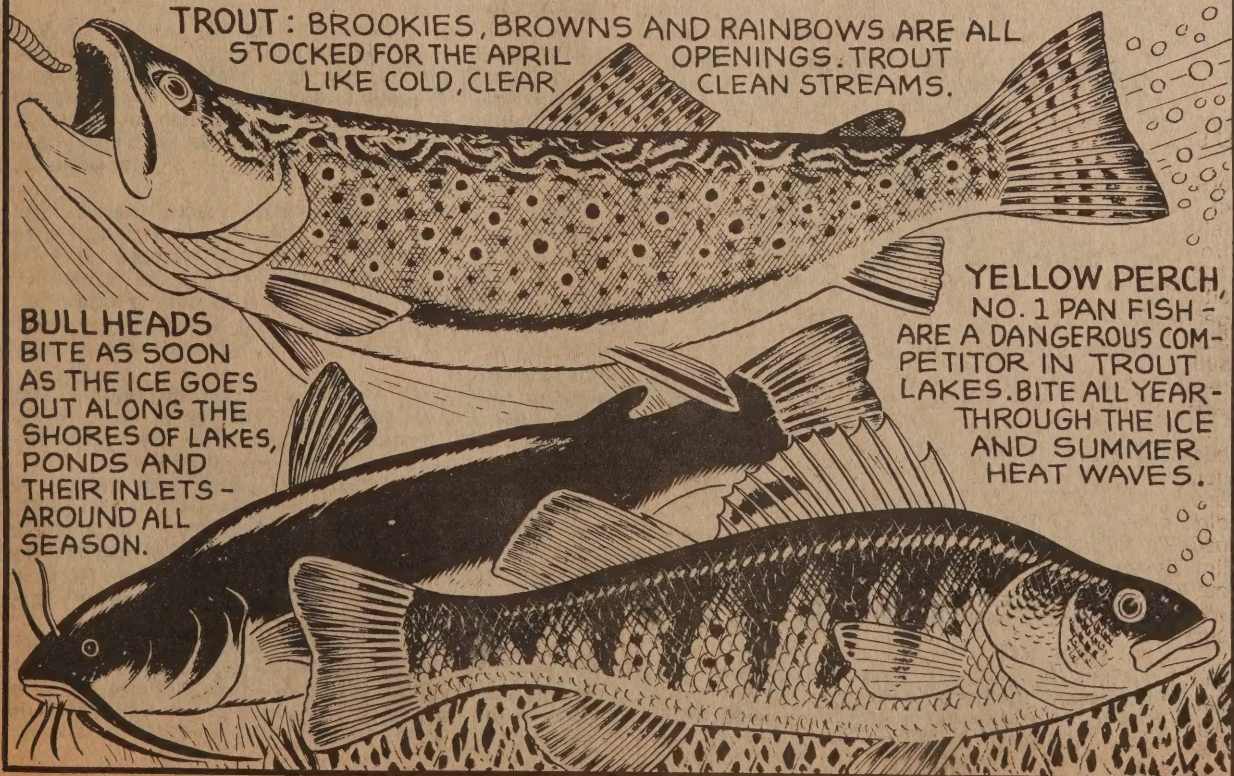
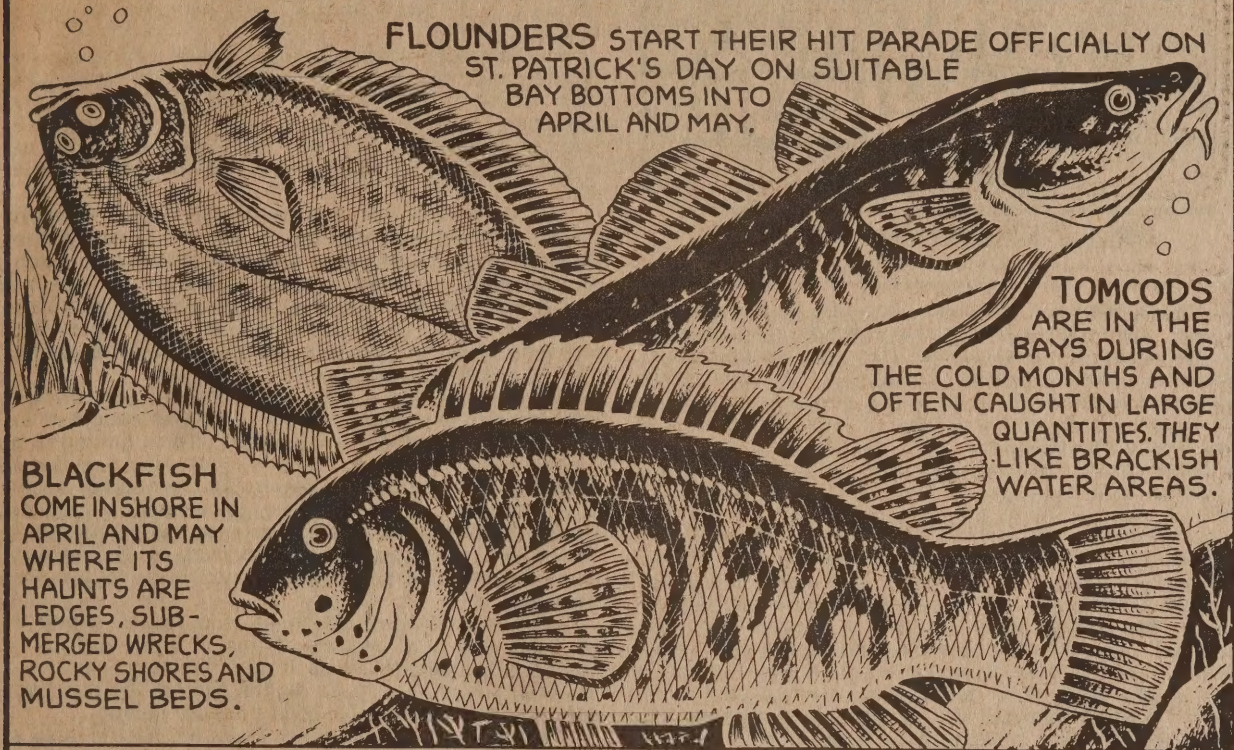
BLACKFISH COME INSHORE IN APRIL AND MAY WHERE ITS HAUNTS ARE LEDGES, SUBMERGED WRECKS, ROCKY SHORES AND MUSSEL BEDS.

FRESHWATER TROUT IN STREAMS, BULLHEADS AND YELLOW PERCH IN PONDS WILL ALL HIT THE SAME BAIT... NIGHTCRAWLERS & GARDEN WORMS ON TROUT HOOKS.

TROUT: BROOKIES, BROWNS AND RAINBOWS ARE ALL STOCKED FOR THE APRIL OPENINGS. TROUT LIKE COLD, CLEAR CLEAN STREAMS.

BULLHEADS BITE AS SOON AS THE ICE GOES OUT ALONG THE SHORES OF LAKES, PONDS AND THEIR INLETS - AROUND ALL SEASON.

YELLOW PERCH NO. 1 PAN FISH - ARE A DANGEROUS COMPETITOR IN TROUT LAKES. BITE ALL YEAR - THROUGH THE ICE AND SUMMER HEAT WAVES.



One of the most wretched and aggravating experiences to befall a discouraged fisherman happens when he returns to his fishing station at day's end with little or nothing to show for his efforts, only to find groups of happy-go-lucky anglers transporting buckets of fish from boat to shore. It's quite a shock, let me tell you; especially after the "unlucky" guy has

can expect is a disappointing day. If you look for December's flounder in the same depths as those in October, you can also expect to be disappointed.

Flounder are cool water fish—not cold, mind you. That is the key. Flounder will get along nicely in water temperatures ranging from 38° to 45°. If necessary, they will tolerate an additional increase of five degrees, but below thirty-eight degrees, they seldom feed in such quantities as to make fishing for them worthwhile—although this lower temperature is what triggers spawning.

As the season advances, water temperatures slowly increase and flounder then seek warmer, shallower water. Above fifty degrees (late spring), flounder will again seek cooler temperatures, and finding none, will move out of the bays and head for the cooler depths of the ocean, returning again in the fall to complete the cycle.

As far as the fish are concerned, don't concern yourself with air temperatures on any given day (those fishermen who do this are confusing themselves with our freshwater brethren). Temperatures in so vast an area as the ocean are controlled by the sluicing back and forth of its waters, the result of the earth's tilting during seasonal change. Our air temperatures have little overall effect on creatures of the sea.

Along about now, I can hear many of you saying: "What's with this guy? I thought this was supposed to be an article on flounder fishing, but all I'm getting is a lot of scientific gibberish." That's right—you are. But I wouldn't call it gibberish, for in his own way, every good fisherman I know is a lay-scientist. Indeed, flounder fishing is in itself a science (as is all sport fishing). And this being so, it behooves us to take this temperature business seriously if we wish to become successful.

Take this month of March—a most finicky month if ever I saw one. And because of this, it won't hurt us to search out the deepest spots in our fishing localities. It is at this time of year those depths contain the required temperatures necessary for good flounder fishing.

I'm well aware that your intended fishing area's depths may contain only twenty feet of water as opposed to some which go to thirty and forty. But that's all right—just so long as you don't fish the fifteen foot depths surrounding these twenty foot areas. Wait until mid-April to do that.

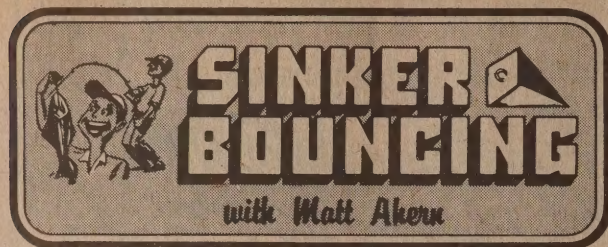
And in this respect, it is always best to carry a chart of the area you plan to fish. Here, plainly marked, you will find precise low-tide water depths, bottom compositions, navigational aids, etc. It is in this month of March when it is best to locate and fish mud bottom. It is in these areas where the flounder you seek have wintered over. These are the spots which now produce. A sort of captive audience.

Many fellows tell me they do exactly that and yet they have difficulty catching fish. The first thing I then ask is whether they had any luck at all in these spots. So far, all have said yes—but not in the quantities expected. Instead of catching the brimming bucketful, they might only succeed in landing five or six—or some other low amount. But not one has said he's actually been skunked.

Well, to that let me say this: the only reason they didn't catch the expected bucketful lies in their fishing methods. They missed the boat! The fact that they caught fish—that fish **were** there—proves that.

Where these fellows failed is simple enough to explain. You will find that even in the best fishing spots, there are areas that hold fewer fish than one is led to expect. I find this happening quite often—especially these past few years—and when it does, I try to emulate the proverbial Boy Scout by being prepared, particularly when fishing unknown areas.

When March flounder fishing, I find it best to seek out a mud bottom in the deepest areas, get the anchor over, allow the boat to settle, and test the fish-producing potential by using worm on one hook and clam or mussel on the other. Usually, this selection will bring action immediately.



SPRING FLOUNDER PROBLEM

PART THREE

convinced himself that "there's no fish in this damned place!" Our saddened fisherman looks on in amazement, hardly believing his eyes. And you can't blame him for that. You have to know the feeling to experience the wrench of it. And let me say right now that there have been many times when I've been on intimate terms with this sad state of affairs. I'm the first to admit it. Because I write this fishing column doesn't make of me a hotshot fisherman—would that it did. I fish with many fellows who put me in the little boy's class. And I also know fishermen with whom I don't fish who do that on a regular basis. For instance, last summer when I thought I was doing okay with the fluke, averaging five or six keepers per trip, an old-timer from New Jersey stopped off at my home twice—each time with close to a hundred fluke; beauties, too. He told me he rarely gets fewer than eighty fluke whenever he fishes in Shinnecock Bay. Hard to believe, I know—but true, nevertheless. I tell you this to lend encouragement to those fellows who go out there expecting to make a killing and find the only killing encountered is to their expectations—done in by those very fish someone said were so easy to catch.

I suppose you fellows who feel otherwise will label me a spoil-sport; but as I've said numerous times before, flounder are only easy to catch for those fishermen who know their stuff. Anyone who tells you differently knows little about flounder fishing.

Certainly it appears easy. You watch shore fishermen hooking fish after fish with seeming ease. You watch others return with buckets filled to brimming. Because of this, no one can fault you for believing that it takes little skill to put flounder in those buckets. But there lies the baited trap. It does take skill, often quite a bit of skill, to consistently catch flounder.

Most of this article will pertain to those fishermen who seek flounder from small boats—excluding to some degree those who do their fishing aboard charter and party boats. This isn't done intentionally, of course, but when you have professional fishermen daily putting their reputations on the line, they are going to find fish for you come hell or high water. Therefore, if your interest lies here, I'm all for you, for I most certainly enjoy flounder fishing from these boats; but for those fishermen whose interests lie in small boat flounder fishing, read on and I'll do my best to help you out.

And for you shore fishermen: don't feel slighted. Much of which follows pertains to you fellows, too. But to kind of make amends, I'll have a shore fishing flounder article for you in two weeks. Lack of space at this time prohibits me from incorporating both.

First, let's take care of the most important thing fishermen should know when seeking flounder from a boat: the temperature of the surrounding water. Make no mistake about this. It is extremely important, for all fish-life is governed by it. If you look for March flounder in the same depths of water as you would look for them in May and expect to make a killing, I'm afraid all you

If the spot is good, the fish will continue to bite; if it's not, and all I've got to show for my efforts are one or two fish within a reasonable length of time, I'll do one of two things.

I will either lower a chum pot, bounce it a few times to get the goo dispersed in the current, and give the fish time to respond. If this doesn't work, I will toss over a small buoy to mark the area and then try drifting about the general area, endeavoring to fish close to the buoy at the conclusion of each drift. If it is at all possible, I try to cover the area from north, south, east, and west. Those fish I caught earlier mean only that I've missed the main concentration and it is now up to me to find them.

This drifting method works remarkably well, although it is not one hundred percent certain that doing so will always land me on the fish. Flounder fishing these days should be that easy!

If the chum pot fails and drifting the area proves unsuccessful, I've got one more ace in the hole: dragging the anchor as described in Part One. This is easy enough to do with the aid of the boat's engine. Many times in March, flounder will lie dormant because of those chilling water temperatures mentioned before. By dragging the anchor through the flounder's cold mud-blanket, you roust them out and they begin to feed. This method is often highly successful and should be kept in mind when all else fails. It has saved many a day for me.

These are the important things to keep in mind when searching out flounder; but once you find fish, you can increase your catch by using good fishing methods. There are so many of these, it would be just about impossible to list every one. So, now that we're at the conclusion of this series of articles, I'll leave you with one which I think extremely important.

You will find that until the water warms a bit (late April and May) flounder will be sluggish in their approach to the baited hook. You may not even feel them. Therefore, it is to your benefit not to use that vicious attempt to sink the hook that so many fellows do. You know what I mean—you see it all the time. The angler feels a flounder's weight and instead of sinking the hook with a gentle lift of his wrist, he comes back or the rod as if he were attempting to plant that hook

inside the jaw bone of a marlin.

If your hooks are sharp—and they should always be—all that's necessary is that gentle lift. You will hook more fish this way than by using caveman tactics.

A simple thing perhaps, but it is those simple techniques—and intelligent, thoughtful things, too—which smart fishermen use that produce fish. The good fisherman, the master fisherman, is not a magician, though it would appear so to beginners. This fellow is nothing more than a fisherman who uses the old gray matter. We used to call it "thinking like a fish," which is just as good a simile as any, I guess.

Let's hope that when you go out there, you, too, will "think like a fish," and by so doing, fill your bucket to brimming. Those methods discussed in these three articles will help you do just that. Put them to use when necessary. You won't be disappointed.

What follows in the next few words has nothing to do with how to catch flounder, but instead is a listing of three catalogs which will help make your overall fishing easier and perhaps save you a few pennies while doing so.

Most fellows realize that it is to their advantage to snell their own hooks and leaders to suit the many requirements of those fish they seek. The bug-a-boo seems to be where to buy the necessary supplies: those special hooks, snelling materials, and like items that are so important to do a professional job. If you send a request to the following mail order houses, they will send you a catalog listing those things you need.

Midland Tackle Co., 66 Rte. 17, Sloatsburg, N.Y. 10974.

Custom Tackle, P.O. Box 38, Seaford, N.Y. 11783.

Merrick Tackle Ctr., Inc., 2655 Merrick Rd., Bellmore, New York 11710.

Because Merrick Tackle Center's catalog is extra-large, they require one dollar be enclosed with your request. This is refundable with your order.

As for information on how to snell your hooks, send me a stamped, self-addressed #10 (business size) envelope to my home at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946, and I'll send you a copy of DuPont's booklet on knots—while they last. It is just what the doctor ordered for guys like us. If I run out, I'll try to get more; so hang in there if you must. Either way, you'll hear from me.

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Fooling Finicky Flounders

by Andy Regina

A lot of people think that fishing for flounder is easy: just pick some likely spot, drop over baited hooks, and haul flounders until you have a pail full. Unfortunately, such is not the case at all. Today, what with dwindling stocks and increased fishing pressure brought on by increasing numbers of fishermen, the competition can be pretty steep at times, and only those fishermen willing to devote enough time and effort to their task will be sufficiently rewarded.

To successfully harvest any species of fish, you must first learn everything about its life style, habitat, likes, and dislikes, before you can hope to outwit it—and the flounder is no different in this respect than even the most prized game fish. Water temperature, bottom conformation, and availability of natural food are the prime factors governing flounder movement, but water salinity, wind, and tides also must be considered, as these factors also have some effect on our flat friends. The use of more precise fishing techniques, when used in conjunction with the above data, will further add to your catch, thus taking successful flounder fishing out of the hands of tyros and placing it into the skilled hands of the experienced angler.

There are certain known facts that should guide your plans for any flattie forays: assimilating this information and applying it properly will enhance your chances of success. Finding out where the fish are likely to be, and getting there at the right time, is half your battle. Using the proper techniques will gain your victory.

The winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) is such a really small fish to be saddled with such a huge name, only averaging about a pound apiece at their best, although they do run up to two, three, four and more pounds on the eastern grounds in the spring, and have several cousins that attain greater weights—such as the yellowtail flounder that reaches three and four pounds. Normally though, the flounder harvested in western Long Island Sound run somewhat smaller, and a one pound fish is considered a nice size.

The flounder is found along the Atlantic Coast, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Georgia, and is a shallow water fish, found from well up into the high tide mark to depths of at least four hundred feet. As a rule, smaller fish are found in shallow water and larger fish in deep water, although large fish can and will enter water less than one foot deep at times. They show a marked preference for bottoms of muddy sand, but may occur on sand, clay, or fine gravel, on the inshore grounds. Offshore, they may be found on hard bottom as well as soft. They enter mouths of estuaries, and occasionally are caught in water that is nearly fresh, such as the mouths of rivers, like the Hudson, East, and Nissequogue Rivers.

Spawning occurs usually from January to May, with a peak from March to April, and occurs over sandy bottom. This fish moves about considerably in search of food, but does not generally migrate too far from its home base. There is a distinct movement from deep water toward shallow water during the fall, and an offshore movement in the spring. These movements are greatly influenced by water temperatures. Flounders cannot endure extensive chilling or heating of the water, and desert shallow areas for deeper water to escape freezing in winter, moving back again to shoal areas when inshore waters warm up once again in the spring.

Flounders prefer a bottom of soft, rich, black mud, especially if it is rich in natural food—the crustaceans and mollusks on which flounder feed. Grayish, foul-smelling, slimy mud is usually barren of flounders, simply because it does not usually support the minute marine life making up flatfish fodder. In bays, best spots are a combination bottom of sand and mud, with patches of eelgrass; clean, white sand and a pebbly floor, or fine gravel adjacent to mussel beds. Do not overlook any deep holes in creeks, channels, or estuaries, especially at low tide, because with a drop in tide, flounders tend to seek deeper water, especially in shoal areas, which can become overly heated or chilled quickly. At high tide, the flounders prowl over the sand flats and mud bottoms, often feeding more actively at high tide than at low.

Fish channel areas, including the center at low tide and between the center and the banks of land at high water. A creek bank, or bend in a channel where there are deep spots is good; often the currents have eroded sloughs or deep holes along the outside of these bends, setting up natural flounder hotspots of deep water over rich bottom, that has lots of natural baits carried into it by the currents. Also fish inside the mouths of Sound harbors which are often most productive when flounders gather to move out through them to escape the previously mentioned temperature extremes.

Natural baits include all mollusks and crustaceans, small baitfish, and seaworms. The baits most widely used by fishermen include bloodworms, sand worms, mussels, and clams of all kinds. Usually overlooked by all but a discriminating few, are grass shrimp and tapeworms, perhaps two of the most highly effective flounder baits of all. Usually not available at bait shops, the extra effort required to procure these baits on your own, limits their use to those willing to dig for the tapeworms or seine for the grass shrimp, but that extra effort often pays dividends in both quality and quantity, as you will most always catch more fish, and bigger ones at that, than your neighbor's.

Here again, the smart flounder fisherman never ventures forth with only one type of bait. At times, the flounder exhibit a marked preference for one type of bait than another. Sometimes a subtle difference, such as the change in tide, can switch flatties from, say worms, to clams, or from clams to mussels, and the true flounder enthusiast must be prepared for all conditions. Often changing baits when action slows down will perk things up for you again.

Presenting the bait properly is important also. In a natural state, seaworms do not appear bunched-up into a blob, so you must affix them on your hooks so that they stream out naturally from the hook bend, leaving a little piece hanging from the bend, to get the fish started on, in tasting. Clams, if cut pieces of hard clams are used, should have a piece of the soft stomach section on them, which should also hang from the hook bend, or the stringy mantle, or lips, attached so that they flutter from the hook enticingly. Mussels must be pierced through the solid black "heart," which is actually the only solid place in which mussels can be hooked, and left to trail from the hook in the manner of the clam mantles. Pieces of tapeworm can be hooked several times before being left to trail from the hook, and grass shrimp should be pierced behind the collar, two or three shrimp to the hook.

Flounder rigs vary from section to section, but the one most used in Long Island Sound is a rig of two small hooks attached to the line inches above a sinker just heavy enough to hold bottom. While the flounder spreader of the past has given way to the tandem hook rig of the present, they both achieve the same purpose of placing two baited hooks on the bottom; but today's fisherman prefers not to use the easy-fouling spreaders. The small mouths of flounders dictates the use of small hooks, and the most common flounder hook is the Chestertown variety, in sizes ranging from #8 to #10. Also highly effective, and gaining in popularity, are small Sproat hooks, in size six or eight, because the shorter shank of this hook literally forces you to make your bait trail from the bend, whereas the long-shanked Chestertowns do not.

To tie an effective tandem hook rig, tie a dropper loop in your line, about two inches above the sinker, and attach one hook by the loop in its snell. Bend that snell in half, and slip that through the loop of the snell of the second hook, then slip the second hook through the opening of the bend in the first snell, drawing it tight and tying it in place with a simple overhand knot. Now bait those hooks as stated above, and lower 'em to the bottom, and proceed to catch fish. If no fish are forthcoming, perhaps it is because we have neglected to discuss proper flounder technique. Let's see what we've forgotten to do.

Accepted procedure is usually to anchor over some proven or hoped-for productive area, chum, and fish. Correct procedures offer more variance, thereby increasing your potential of success. Anchoring is not merely a matter of dropping the hook over, waiting for it to dig in, and then tying it down. You must make allowances for variances of tide, as well as for the increasing or decreasing strength of the current, and for the force and direction of the wind. If you intend chumming, exact position is so critical that the more knowledgeable flatfie fishermen resort to bridle anchors to remain atop their chosen spots.

Bridle anchoring is a system of using two or more anchors to keep you over a favored spot in the position most desired, without swinging too far off base because of strong winds or currents, and even by a rising or falling tide at times. Upon setting the first anchor, the boat is dropped back on the anchor line several boat lengths, and a second anchor is made secure, usually from the stern. Once the stern anchor is set, the boat is brought forward on the bow anchor line while line at the stern anchor is paid out, until you are exactly where you want to be, upon which both bow and stern anchors are made fast. Once affixed in your position, slight deviations caused by a rising or falling tide can be compensated for by tightening up on one anchor line as you fall back on the other, or vice-versa, as the case may be.

Chumming is necessary to productive flounder fishing, especially in the spring, when flounders are lethargic due to the cold water and their long winter layoff. Chum is merely a substance that whets fish appetites, sort of like hors d'oeuvres whet human appetites for the main course. It can consist of any marine life—fish, mollusk, or crustacean—and is usually ground into a soupy consistency that allows tiny particles of flesh to accompany the essence that is carried down-current. We use mussels, smashed in a pail and dispensed over the side, or ground clam bellies, fished from a chum pot suspended directly under the boat. At times corn kernels do the trick, as does rice, pebbles, oatmeal, egg shells, or anything else that might interest flounder. The trick here is to just give the fish enough of a taste or smell to get 'em searching for the source, which hopefully will lead them to your baited hooks.

Another trick that stirs up flounder interest is to roil the bottom. Disturbing the bottom raises puffs of mud that dislodge tiny bits of flounder delicacies, such as worms or clams, and you can perk their interest by poking bottom with a pole, or bouncing it with a sashweight or dragging a chain over it. Any means of



Budding outdoor writer Fred Fragano happily unhooking a bragging-size flounder he just caught, and not by sheer luck—note the corn rig and large pieces of worm that tricked this finicky fish.

disturbing the bottom seems to produce results, and a sure bet would be to follow any dredgers that may be working the area, as they are constantly disturbing the bottom in search of clams, mussels, or oysters.

These are times when even those who diligently apply all the above-mentioned tricks will find fishing a slow pick at best. It is for these slow periods when all else fails that we resort to one final technique that has often saved the day for us—and that is the simple expedient of drifting. Rather than remaining fixed in any one unproductive area, drifting allows you to cover a lot more ground, and if nothing else, will usually put you over other spots that may be more productive. Usually a long, slow drift, seems to perk flounder interest and appetites, and fish caught via this method invariably strike hard and fight better than those fish caught at anchor. We do not know the exact reason for this, but it just may be because the fish think that the bait is escaping, and are quicker to react.

Here you allow your baited hooks to drag over the bottom as the boat drifts along, raising your rod tip periodically to see if some flounder has mouthed the bait softly, as they are wont to do when still fishing. When you feel the unmistakable weight of some hanging-on flounder, set the hook with a sharp upward snap of the rod, and enjoy the scrap these mini-fish can put forth when caught on light tackle. And smile, because you have just fooled some finicky flounder!

PORK RINDS

by J. Chad

Have you ever gone to a butcher shop to get some fishing lures? We used to, my grandfather and I; and I still do. I still get extra long, extra tough rinds, and spend a little time and energy fashioning them into some of the world's best fish catchers.

Most of you know that a piece of pork rind attached to a spinner spoon, or plug enhances its attraction and usually increases your catch. But I know of few fishermen who enjoy the success that a properly constructed rind, used by itself, can bring.

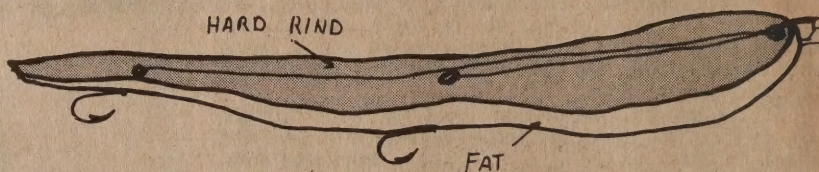
The rinds my grandfather used were marvels in themselves, cut from a slab of rind with the fat still attached, tapered and trimmed into a masterpiece of fish enticement that took bass, pickerel, and perch in the smaller varieties, and stripers, blues and weaks with the king-sized models.

Not that this project is without cost, mind you. You'll wind up buying some salt (unless you can get away with using the wife's kitchen supply) and if you run into a tightfisted butcher, you'll probably have to invest in a slab of pork rind.

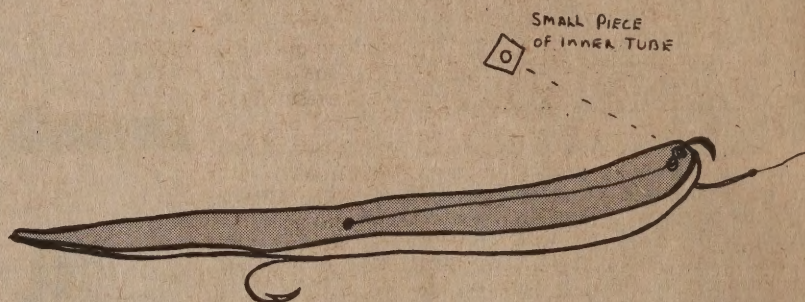
Just make sure it's long enough, has a good amount of fat attached, and is extra tough. The length you make these rind lures is a matter of personal choice. The design is really what is important. A properly trimmed and tapered rind has an action all its own in the water—an action that few fish can resist. One sure way to know if your rind is working right is to realize it can't be fished without a swivel. Even rigged stationery for surf fishing, a properly designed rind is worked so effectively by the current that without a swivel your leader will be twisted in a matter of minutes.

The basic design of these rings is simple. For rinds six to nine inches long, which we found ideal for freshwater fishing, cut strips one-half inch wide. Take a razor or sharp knife and taper the rind to one-eighth inch at the tail. Also trim the fat in the same manner leaving it a little less than one-half an inch thick at the head and trimming it back to almost nothing at the tail. This is the basic design, once you fish it a few times feel free to alter it to fit your particular needs. Whatever you come up with that works the best for you is the style that you need.

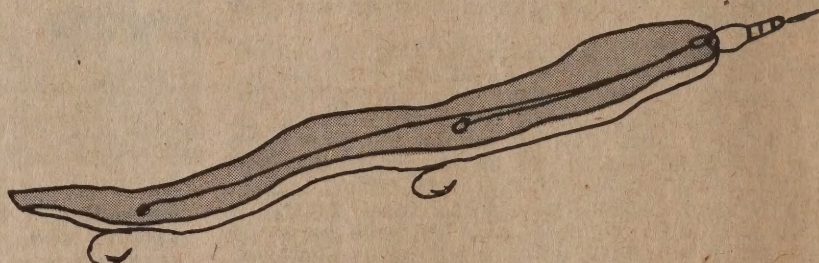
As for the larger rinds—nine to twenty inches, cut strips one-and-a-half or two inches and taper them to



Rind hooked in the center and tail.



Rind hooked in the center and head.



Shallow troll or casting rig.



Deep troll or surf rig.

around one-half to three-quarters of an inch respectively. Again, this is just the basic design.

Now comes some basics again.

The rigging of the hooks. We've fished some of the smaller rinds with only one hook, but found we missed a large number of fish

striking short. A two, or in some cases, three tandem hook rig always took the most fish. What my grandfather would do after he had carved out his lures was to punch three holes in each: one at the head, one near the tail, and one in-between. In this way, the rinds could accommodate a three-hook rig or a center head, center tail variation.

For the smaller rinds, we used #2 and #4 hooks; the smaller hook for the smaller rind (six inches), but if the rind was to have a tail hook that hook was always one size smaller than the center or head hook (i.e., a #4 tail hook if the others were #2s).

For the larger rinds we went into the 3/0, 5/0, etc., hooks—again depending on the size of the rind and what we were fishing for. These hooks were never installed on the rind until we were ready to fish because the secret of a good rind is the solution it is kept in. This solution should be very strong brine, just on the liquid side of paste, in order to preserve and toughen the rind. Also, I believe it gave it a fish attracting flavor, but any hook kept in it would wind up useless in a very short while.

We used only short-shanked hooks and tied on our own leaders to accommodate the rind. This can be a little time-consuming when you are anxious to get fishing and it can be done beforehand as long as you give the rind at least ten days in the brine before you build the hooks for it.

As far as rigging the hooks goes: a single hook through the head is no problem. Just slip the rind on, swivel the hook and you are in business. A head center rig is almost as easy. Tie off the leader on your center hook at the right length, thread the leader through the center hole in the rind and slip its eye over the barb of the head hook. A small piece of inner tube with a hole in it pushed on the head hook after the leader eye will ensure it not working off.

For a center tail rig, things require a little more planning. We found the best method was to run both leaders to the head hole and slip them onto the swivel that's made directly to the rind. For a three tandem hook, rig the tail and center leader are brought up the same but their eyes are secured to the head hook in the head center manner.

These rinds are versatile when it comes to fishing them. Back when my grandfather and I fished we never heard of a "rubber worm," but that didn't keep us from fishing rinds in the manners prescribed for fishing worms made out of rubber. We fished them straight, fished them with split shot, fished them led by small spinners. We also fished them on trolls both deep and shallow. Work them fast or slow; they are versatile and fit any

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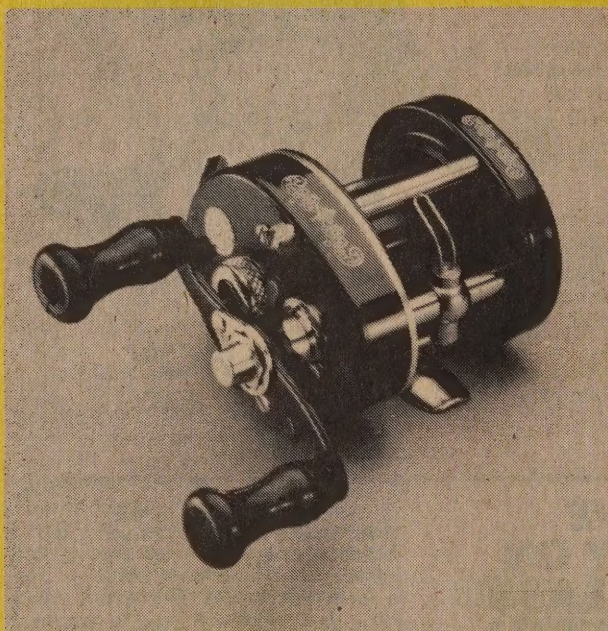
When he and I did on occasion get to the ocean, we always took some "rinds" with us—especially in the surf. Rigged on an eighteen inch to two foot leader a foot or so above the sinker, the current would work the rinds and fish would begin to line up to get a piece of the action.

However you fish them, just remember a swivel is important. Now getting back to the slab of pork rind and the trimmings that will be

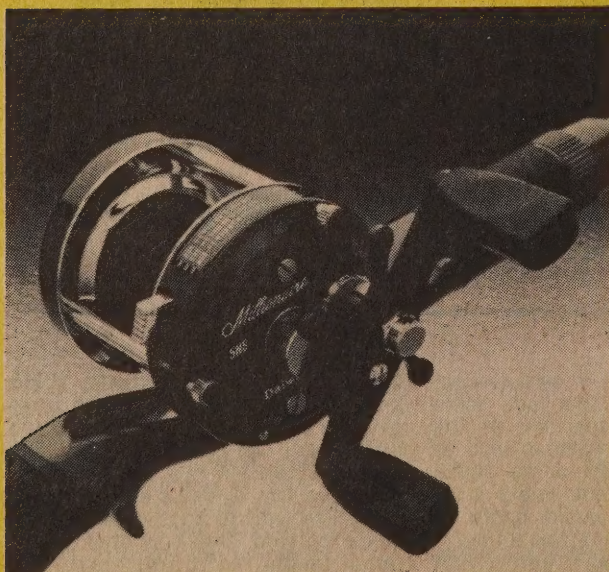
left after your lures are made. These are fine supplements to other lures as most fishermen know and here, a little longer can be a little better and an extra hook or two could mean a few more fish at day's end. But one thing can lead to another and these strips of rind and how my grandfather taught me to use them, plus some deep hot weather and bass tricks will have to be discussed at a later date.

This year, try something new— BAITCASTING

by Al Ristori



Shakespeare 1984 holds 175 yards of 20 lb. and is a real powerhouse.



Daiwa Millionaire 5HS has 5:1 gear ratio and holds 165 yds. of 10 lb.

Baitcasting tackle is generally associated with freshwater fishing and, indeed, is very popular with sweet-water anglers throughout the country. However, there is a very definite place for this tackle in the brine—a fact that Captain John DeMaio constantly tries to get across in his articles. If you fish the bays and shore lines of Florida and the Gulf states, you'll see baitcasting gear being used by most of the pros, yet it has never really caught on with saltwater fishermen in the northeast.

Before even getting into the question of whether you should use baitcasting tackle, it would be best at this point to define just what it is that we're talking about. Actually, there is no great technical difference between baitcasting and standard conventional revolving spool star drag reels. Baitcasters are relatively small, have level winds and are finely tuned for casting light lures. Though there once were a lot of cheap baitcasters made for kids who were just going to dangle a worm over the side, that market has been taken over completely by spincast and open face spinning reels. Therefore, just about every baitcasting reel you'll see in a store today will be a quality product at a quality price—almost invariably over \$50.

Baitcasting reels are made for casting, and the expense involved in buying them is such that there is no reason to get involved, unless you're going to use them for that purpose. Of course, they are just fine for light bottom fishing and trolling, but you can accomplish the same thing with a much less sophisticated reel that's also a great deal cheaper.

Why use baitcasting, rather than spinning, for casting? The real reason for that is a difficult one to explain because it involves feel. Indeed, it's the very point that John DeMaio makes in his articles. Unfortunately, until you take the time to learn to handle baitcasting gear you won't be able to experience that feel which literally separates the men from the boys in certain types of fishing. Another good reason for using baitcasting is that you can handle light lures and still exert a great deal of pressure on the fish. This is the main reason why just about every freshwater bass pro uses baitcasting. Their quarry isn't large, but it often lives in areas full of snags and must be dragged out immediately or the fight will be over before it starts.

Baitcasting is ideal for school striper fishing, and also for weakfish, small blues and chumming for bonito and false albacore (little tunny). Small jigs can be handled without difficulty and the modern fast retrieve baitcasting reel is well suited to working even popping plugs. I use a large baitcasting reel for deep jigging with heavy diamond jigs and even for most of my bottom fishing in relatively shallow waters. In the south, large baitcasters are what's normally used for deep jigging—even in 200' and 300' depths. If you are working with your tackle all day long, the lighter weight and easier handling soon makes up for any slight disadvantage in hauling power.

In addition to price, one of the main reasons fishermen stay away from baitcasting is the perceived

difficulty in learning how to cast one of these little reels. Fortunately, the modern baitcaster is a far cry from the reels I grew up with. As a youngster I spent more time picking out backlashes than I did in fishing. Once I got my hands on a spinning outfit I never again attempted to cast a light lure with anything else until the mid-Sixties. It was a real eye-opener when I went back to baitcasting at that time. Within minutes I was making long accurate casts with nary an overrun. The accuracy aspect is another feature of baitcasting that you'll come to appreciate. Unlike the situation in spinning, you will soon develop pinpoint accuracy with baitcasting tackle—even when casting into the wind. That's another reason for the popularity of baitcasting with both freshwater bass anglers and snook fishermen who must drop their lures right next to the mangroves in order to be in the payoff zone.

The spool tension adjustment (mechanical brake) knob is the key to effortless casting with a baitcasting reel. When all rigged and ready to cast, put the reel in free spool and adjust the tension so the lure drops very slowly. With that degree of spool tension you should be able to cast without even thumbing until the point at which the lure hits the water. If you need a little more distance, release the tension a bit, but be prepared to thumb if necessary—particularly if you're casting into the wind. Modern baitcasters have a centrifugal braking system that automatically slows the spool to prevent backlash. With all this going for you, it's little wonder that a beginner can pick up a baitcasting outfit and be fishing with it the same day.

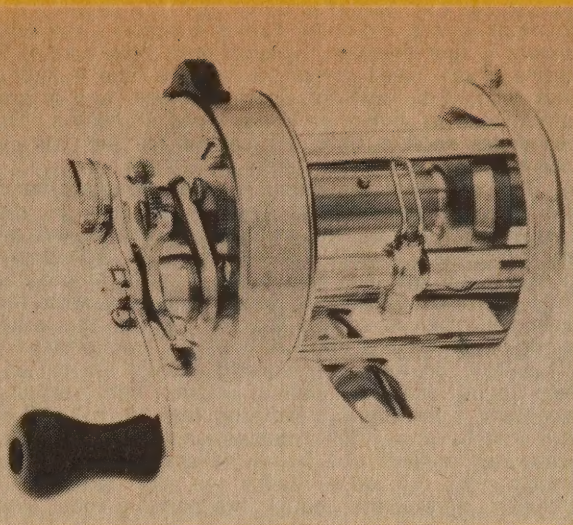
WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

Buying baitcasting reels is pretty simple these days, since virtually all of the poor products have been eliminated from the market. In making your selection consider the size of the reel you want first. For school bass, a reel with a capacity of about two hundred yards of twelve pound test is perfectly adequate. That's the same size reel normally used in freshwater situations. However, the saltwater angler in the northeast will probably get more use out of the next size reel that carries about one hundred yards of twelve pound test. Generally, these reels will have the same size sideplates but the larger reel will carry a wider spool. While twelve pound is ideal for casting small lures, these reels are perfectly capable of handling twenty pound test.

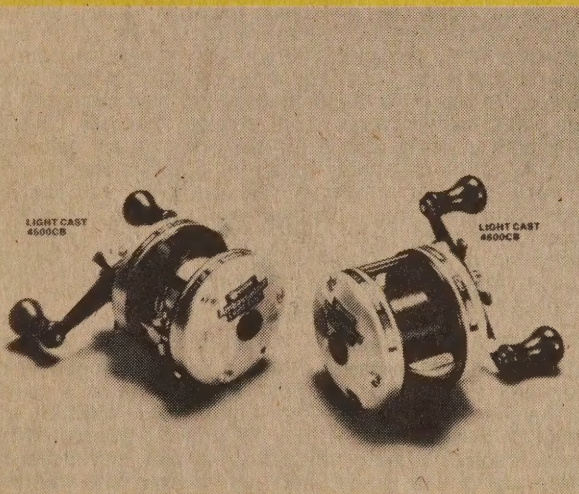
The line guides in use on modern baitcasters are very sophisticated and will usually last for years with a minimum of care. A popular innovation lately has been the disengaging line guide. In that system, the line guide only works on the retrieve. This provides more frictionless casting, but is most effective on very narrow spool reels—such as those now in favor with freshwater anglers, who have found that they don't need even the capacity of standard sized baitcasters. Another recent innovation has been smooth left sideplates. Until recently, the spool tension adjustment was always on the left side plate where it made palming of the reel uncomfortable. Now it's on the right side in most narrow reels. Though somewhat inconvenient to get at there, it's only used when you change lure sizes in any case. Since I recommend the use of two-handed rods for most saltwater fishing, the palming feature isn't of any great importance to area anglers.

In the south, spool breakage is still a significant problem with some baitcasters used in deep jigging and for large tarpon. Mono creates tremendous pressures when most of the line on the reel is run off, and then reeled back on under tension. Since baitcasting spools must be light enough to cast well, there is a real problem involved in making one that won't burst under great pressure. This really is not much of a problem with the fishing normally done in our area, but could be if you decided to use your baitcaster in deep jigging. The Shakespeare President 1984 and Penn Levelmatics have a good reputation for the ruggedness of their spools, and I've never had any trouble with the big Ambassador 7000.

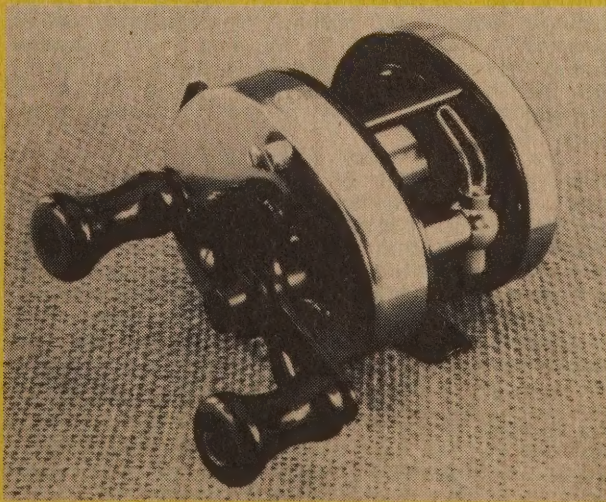
Fast retrieve is a must for baitcasters used in



Penn 920 Levelmatic has a free spool clutch operated by the flick of the thumb.



New Abu-Garcia Light Cast 4500CB and 4600CB handle 100 yards of 12 lb. and weigh just 7.7 and 7.8 oz.



Shakespeare 1982 weighs just 7.8 oz., but carries 150 yards of 12 lb. and has a 5:1 gear ratio.

saltwater. Due to the small size of the spools, the actual amount of line layed on the spool with each turn of the handle is very small unless the retrieve ratio is high. A high ratio is a must for popping plugs, and a great convenience in almost all other types of fishing. Most freshwater anglers have also opted for fast retrieve. Look for ratios of at least 4.5:1.

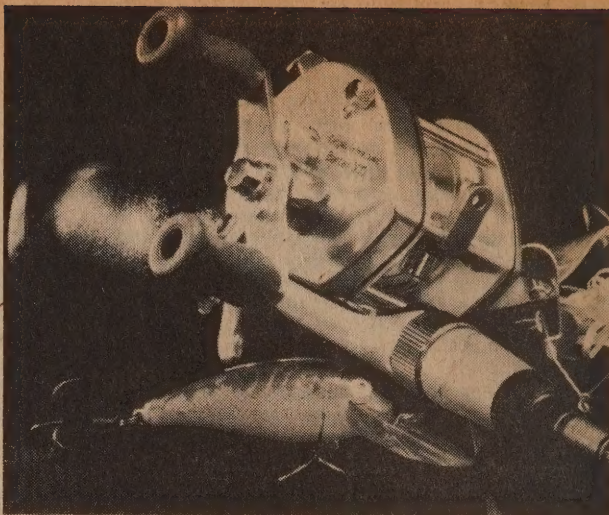
The standard baitcasting rod has an offset handle and is used one-handed. That's just fine in most freshwater situations, but saltwater anglers in our area will be better off with two-handed rods that provide more casting distance and better control of big fish. They will also experience fewer problems with reels locking in place when salt deposits get into the locking arrangement. I get a great deal of use from a short (5' 8") musky rod that is quite stiff. When the object is deep, jigging or bottom fishing where a heavy sinker is necessary, I can use a baitcasting reel on that stiff rod and still have a light combination to handle. Most freshwater anglers opt for five-and-a-half to six foot casting rods, but longer sticks are often preferred in saltwater. Particularly popular are popping rods, which are six-and-a-half to seven feet in length and have a trigger grip on the back of the straight reel seat. Stick with one-piece rods where possible (popping rods usually have separate handles), or look for glass-to-glass ferrules.

Great advances have been made in recent years in pistol grip handles for baitcasting rods. Pistol grips have almost entirely replaced the old short straight handle on one-handed rods and make a day of casting that much easier. On the other hand, baitcasting rods designed for use with heavier lures have straight handles covered with cork or foam and are most practical for saltwater use. As is the case with spinning, graphite has become a very popular material for building baitcasting rods—and that material is even being used by Skyline to produce a very light pistol grip handle. With the exception of some Daiwa rods with their new Dynaflo guides, just about every quality baitcaster today is fitted with aluminum oxide guides.

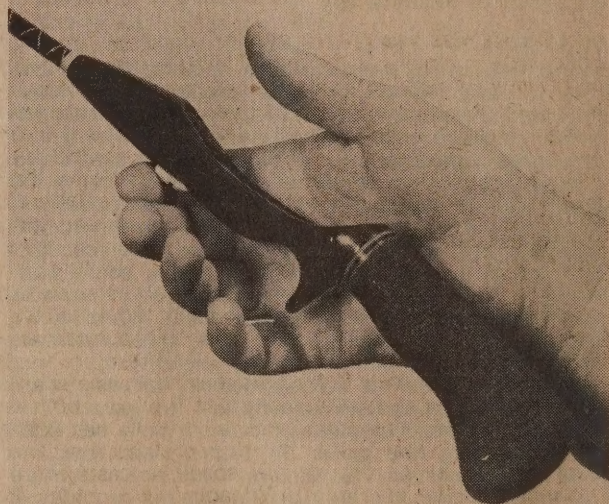
WHAT'S AVAILABLE.

Abu-Garcia's Ambassador lineup hasn't changed in its saltwater aspect. The big push this year is on a couple of narrow spool reels, the Light Cast 4500CB and 4600CB. Weighing in at just 7.7 and 7.8 ounces, these reels feature palming sideplates, a new self-centering disengaging line guide, and will handle one hundred yards of twelve pound. As is the case with all Ambassador models with a "6" for a second digit, the 4600CB has a ThumBar free spool mechanism. This is a bar across the bottom of the reel that takes the place of the traditional free spool button and eliminates the need to bring your left hand over to go into free spool before casting. Though this system hasn't caught on as expected, I have found it convenient in freshwater fishing. However, I've also had a good deal of difficulty with the ThumBar in saltwater and would recommend that anglers stick with the conventional system in the briny.

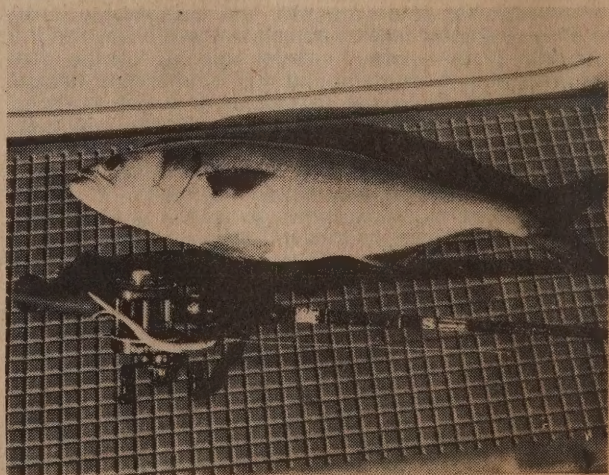
The standard spool Ambassadors in the 5000 series carry 225 yards of twelve pound. Included are models with ball bearings, direct drive, ThumBar and new palming sideplates. All are fast retrieve (4.7:1), except for the 5000 and the only left-handed baitcaster on the market: the 5001C (both 3.6:1). Saltwater anglers will get more use from the 6000 series, which carries 325 yards of twelve pound. There are three models incorporating most features. Biggest of all true baitcasters is the Ambassador 7000 (275 yds. 20 lb.) which weighs a hefty 15.7 ounces and is strictly for two-handed use. The gear ratio is 4:1, which is pretty fast considering the size of the spool. This is a heavy duty reel that I've used extensively in both local waters and abroad. The only real weak spot is the drag, which tends to get jerky after a period of saltwater use. Garcia has also added the 5500 and 6500 Stripper reels—standard and wide-spool versions of basic Ambassadors with palming sideplates and oversized star drag wheel.



New Shimano Bantam 300 holds 216 yards of 10 lb. and has a 4.8:1 gear ratio.



Skyline's graphite handle complements their 100% graphite rods.



Shakespeare 1982 President II reel and Ugly Stik are ideal for freshwater bass fishing, but will also do the job in jigging bluefish.

Shakespeare's big reel is the 1984 (265 yds. of 15 lb.), a favorite among deep jiggers in Florida. It has a 4:1 gear ratio, while the slightly smaller 1980 (200 yds. 15 lb.) has a 5:1 ratio. Both have two shielded ball bearings. For the sweet-water angler, Shakespeare features the 7.8 ounce 1982 President II that carries 150 yards of twelve pound and is now a very fast 5:1. The 1981 is the lightest full size baitcaster on the market—holding 212 yards of twelve pound, but weighing in at just 8.1 ounces.

Penn's Levelmatic reels have proven very popular with saltwater anglers and, like all Penn products, are surprisingly inexpensive. The smaller sizes, 910 (double knob handle) and 920 (counterbalanced handle), carry 175 yards of twelve pound. Slightly larger are the 930 (counterbalanced handle) and 940 (double knob handle), which hold 225 yards of twelve pound—the same as the Ambassador 5000 series. Gear ratios are 4:1, and sealed stainless steel ball bearings are featured on these gold anodized reels built to stand up to saltwater abuse.

Shimano has jumped into the baitcasting market with both feet. After the successful introduction of their tiny Bantam 100, they've introduced four more baitcasters ranging up to the Bantam 500—364 yards of ten pound. Both the 500 and the slightly smaller 400 are of stainless steel construction for saltwater use and feature a 4.8:1 gear ratio. All of the Bantams have a disengaging line guide with aluminum oxide line guide ring. The ultra-light Bantam 100 weighs only 7.7 ounces, has a 4.7:1 gear ratio and holds 150 yards of ten pound. Like all Shimano products, the Bantams are beautifully styled.

Daiwa has made significant inroads into the baitcasting market that only a few years ago was completely dominated by Ambassador. Their Millionaire series is similar in shape to the Ambassadors, with three models in the 5000 size class (3R, 4H and 5HS) and one (6HS) comparable to the 6000s. The 5HS and 6HS both have 5:1 gear ratios and stainless steel ball bearings. The newer Procaster SM-2A is a small reel (110 yds. 12 lb.) with smooth left sideplate, disengaging line guide with aluminum oxide ring, two stainless steel ball bearings and a 5.2:1 gear ratio.

Pflueger has dropped the famous Supremes and is concentrating on the standard sized 2800 and little 2600. The latter reel weighs in at just 7.8 ounces, but carries a respectable 120 yards of fifteen pound. There are three Quick Champion models that feature one-piece aluminum spools, stainless steel ball bearings and are saltwater corrosion resistant. Largest is the 800B, with a capacity of 275 yards of fifteen pound. Lew Childre started the rush toward narrow spool baitcasters with smooth left sideplates and disengaging line guides for freshwater use. However, when his supplier (Shimano) went into the business with its own line of reels, supply problems developed and Childre has backed off the time being. A new reel is presently being designed and should be on the market by next year.

RODS

Rods made of graphite or graphite-glass have dominated the market in baitcasting even more so than in spinning. Shakespeare has done a big job with their graphite-glass Ugly Stiks, which are almost unbreakable and carry an outstanding warranty. They expect to do even better with them this year as the hot new material, boron, has been added to the Ugly Stik composition. All but one of the pistol grip casting models features a Mag-Lite handle made of magnesium. Shakespeare also has a couple of five-and-a-half foot casting rods in its Grafion boron/graphite series, plus two of five-and-a-half feet and a six footer in the PuRdy Stik Kevlar/glass combination. There are also three graphite models and a great many in Fiberglass.

Shakespeare makes popping rods in both the Ugly Stik and Fiberglass construction. All have blanks extending through the handle for extra strength. The handles are ten inches, with five inch foregrips and chrome-plated brass reel seats—plus the usual trigger grip. A good musky (or heavy jugging) model is the Fiberglass six foot BWC-220.

Lamiglas is a big name in blanks, but they're also establishing quite a reputation for their finished rods. Graphite is a particular specialty and they carry two very complete lines in different price classes. I'd never given much thought to the advantages of graphite in saltwater until I tried the Lamiglas 1217 5' 8" musky rod in their relatively inexpensive Grapiteer series. That rod is light as a feather, but can handle anything I can put on it!

Fenwick was the pioneer in graphite and they still have a good position in that market. Like Lamiglas, they make graphite rods even for specialized types of fishing. Included are the G-759 5' 9" musky rod, G-765 6½' Striper model and GPLP-71 7', two-piece popping rod. Another new popping rod is the 6½' G-795. There's an even greater selection of everything in Fiberglass.

Just as in spinning, Browning's Boron (actually forty percent boron and sixty percent graphite) rods are attracting a lot of attention. Four models are currently available in the five to six foot range. Browning also has a large selection of graphite and Fiberglass casting rods, including some popping models. Skyline makes nothing but graphite and, except for a couple of ninety-six percent graphite Red Neck rods, all are one hundred percent graphite. Interesting numbers in their Pro Special series include the SKC 5514 5' 9" musky rod; the SKC 7002 Doodle Soc'n/Striper rod (7'), and the SKC 7008 and 8008 popping rods of 7' and 8'. All are one-piece with blank-through handle for extra power.

Daiwa features eleven Bill Dance Signature casting rods in their Procaster graphite line, plus a huge selection of fiberglass rods that includes popping and musky models. Garcia is classifying most of their better rods by the type of fish they're intended for and it's therefore not surprising that the best casting rods are in the Bass selection. Included are models of boron/glass and graphite/glass. A Striper selection includes fiberglass casting rods of 5½' and 6', plus a 7', two-piece popping rod. Shimano features casting rods in the Kevlar/graphite series, and also has others in ninety-seven percent graphite and Fiberglass. American Tackle has casting rods in both graphite and Fiberglass for ladies and those with small hands, as well as a complete selection with normal specs. A feature this year is the new Striper series, including the SEC 601, 6' popping rod.

Eagle Claw has an extensive graphite line (Blue Diamond) which includes a 7' popping rod and 5' 9" musky rod. Their Granger heavy-duty Fiberglass series includes some relatively inexpensive but super tough casting rods. Among these are three one-piece 7' rods rated for one-half to two ounce lures, and the GHCH418, a 5' 9" one-piece stick with ceramic guides, straight seat and cork handle that's rated for seventeen to thirty pound test and one to five ounce lures. The Eagle Claw Striper series, including a 6' casting rod and 6½' and 7' popping rods, is also worth looking into for good value. Zebco has some good casting rods in its graphite/glass Omega line and Olympic has some good values in its top-of-the-line 8000 series. Pflueger is making a big move in graphite this year with its inexpensive Medalist and Skil-Cast lines, and Quick has good casting rods in both its Finessa and Oriental D.A.M. series.

Berkley is pushing its graphite/glass Bounty Hunter series, which even includes a 5' 10" musky rod. Seven foot, one-piece popping rods are included in Bounty Hunter, Gray (Fiberglass) and Buccaneer (Fiberglass) lines. Kencor's Octagon series is certainly unusual, and Heddon offers a big casting selection in both its Mark Graphite and fiberglass lines. Lew Childre was one of the first in graphite and is still among the leaders. In addition to their many casting rods, they have a good musky model—the 6' G6X.

In this article we don't have the room to go over more than a tiny fraction of the rods available on the market at present. However, you're sure to find what you want in the vast selection of 1980 models on display in your favorite tackle stores right now. Give baitcasting a good try this year. You'll be surprised at just how easy it is to cast with modern baitcasting tackle, and also at the many uses you'll find for that outfit.

THE CASE FOR A SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE

★★★PART FOUR★★★ WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE MONEY?

Whenever the subject of licensing saltwater fishermen is raised, sport fishermen usually find themselves quick to agree on two things: the first thing they are quick to agree upon is that they are opposed to a license. The second area of agreement is *WHY* they are opposed to a license, which is where the real heart of the issue lies. Because without a why, there is no reason to be opposed to a license, right? If one is going to be against something, it must be for specific reasons that have been carefully thought out using our capacity for logic—which is the mental capacity that man has been gifted with that separates us all from the lower animals. Animals “react,” based upon instinct and pre-conditioning. Man “thinks,” then reacts in the manner in which logic has showed him to be the best course of action. Which is another way of us saying that if you are against a license, you must have a reason.

The reason we hear from sport fishermen opposed to a license time and time again is that “the money will be wasted on something else, and fishermen won’t get anything.” The feeling is that the politicians will just collect the money and spend it on one of their pet projects, and none of the money will be spent in a manner that will benefit fish and/or fishermen. And if this is the case, then a license would just be another tax. All of which we believe to be true, by the way—but *only* if we let them get away with it. So the question boils down to this: how can we keep the politicians from spending the money on *bullshit*?

It won’t be simple, and there are no guarantees. But one way to *guarantee* that a license will be a tax is to do nothing. As we stated last week in Part Three of this series (which was erroneously entitled Part Two), a saltwater license is inevitable for several reasons, and we can’t afford to sit idly by any longer and “hope” that when it comes it won’t be a tax—because that’s the way it shall be. The only way to prevent this from happening is to fight *NOW* for a license that will have safeguards written into the legislation that will ensure that the money raised by license fees will be spent on projects that will benefit those who are footing the bill—recreational sport fishermen. We believe that these safeguards are contained in the Model License that was outlined in Part One of this series in the March 6th issue of *The Long Island Fisherman*. This Model License is an amalgamation of ideas that we have gathered after studying license proposals that have been made in this and other states, and the licenses presently in effect in states such as California.

The most important aspect of this Model License are the provisions made on where the monies raised from license fees would go and how they would ultimately be spent. These important questions are addressed in Sections II, III, and IV of The Model License, which we will print section by section, and discuss each in turn.

II. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE LICENSE FEES COLLECTED?

- A. The New York State Finance Law would be amended by adding a new section, section eighty-three-a, to read as follows:
 1. *The Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund.*
 - a. The Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund shall consist of all monies belonging to the state received by the Department of Environmental Conservation from the sale of licenses and permits for the taking of fish in or from the waters of the marine and coastal district and the landing of fish taken outside the State territorial waters.
 - b. Any “matching funds” collected by the State from other sources that are received on the basis of funds to be used from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund must be put into the MRF Fund until which time those monies are expended.
 - c. Federal monies received by the State from the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act (Dingell/Johnson Act) must be put into the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund. This will be a proportionate amount of the monies received by the State based on the total number of Marine Recreational Fishing Licenses sold compared to the total number of Freshwater Fishing Licenses sold in the State annually.

This section would establish the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund*, which is where all the monies from license fees would be deposited *directly*. This means that when you make out your check for a license, it *MUST* be deposited directly into this account and nowhere else. By establishing a separate fund such as this the money will never become mixed in with the monies that the State collects through taxes and other means. We won’t have the problem of paying a few million dollars into the “general fund” only to have a couple of hundred thousand come back, as is the usual course of events when government gets its hands on some money. Any “matching” funds that the State receives from the Federal Government would also have to be deposited into this account *upon receipt* if the dollars that are being matched are going to be taken from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund.

Section II would also resolve an inequitable situation that has existed for many years in New York. Although most fishermen haven’t been aware of it, they have been paying a tax for some time now in the form of

a 10% excise tax that we pay on every fishing reel, rod, lure and other types of fishing equipment we buy as a result of the Dingell/Johnson Act. The reason most anglers are unaware of this is because the tax is paid on the manufacturer's level, so it never appears on a bill that we see. It's a "hidden" tax. The manufacturer sends the money directly to the Federal Government, which uses it for the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act. More than ninety-five percent of the monies so collected are returned directly back to the states, which use it on projects such as artificial reefs and research. It is through the use of Dingell/Johnson money that striped bass may now be caught in freshwater in most of the states of the Union as a result of the research that was done and the stocking programs that were funded with Dingell/Johnson money. The only problem with this excise tax is that saltwater sport fishermen don't receive any benefit from it due to the manner in which it is disbursed once it reaches the individual states. New York State, for example, receives approximately \$600,000 a year, but because freshwater fishermen are licensed and have effectively organized into powerful groups such as the New York Conservation Council and the Nassau County Fish and Game Association, all of this money is spent on freshwater projects. So despite the obvious fact that much of the money is collected from saltwater fishermen, not a *single dime* is spent for their benefit. Section II would correct this inequity by making it a law that a percentage of all Dingell/Johnson money received by the State would have to be deposited in the *Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund* for use in saltwater. The provisions also mean that any other money received by the State for marine finfish would have to go into the MRF Fund, which will be important in the future. For example, at the present time there is a bill in Washington that, if passed, would provide matching funds to the states for the purpose of building artificial fishing reefs. If this bill were to go into effect at this point in time, we'd be left out in the cold because the State doesn't have any funds available to be matched—except for freshwater.

III. HOW WOULD THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES FUND BE SPENT?

A. No monies will be spent from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund for the use of facilities, or to pay for salaried personnel, that were being used or employed by the Division of Marine and Coastal Resources of the Department of Environmental Conservation prior to the establishment of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund.

B. Monies will be budgeted and disbursed from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund on a percentage basis according to the following budget:

Facility Development & Maintenance, and Acquisition of Fishing Access	70%
Investigations & Management	10%
Enforcement	8%
Administration.....	7%
Education & Information	5%
TOTAL	100%

C. No monies from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund shall be used for the acquisition of wetlands, investigations or management of shellfish, or biological research on marine finfish, unless an equal amount of money has been placed in the MRF Fund from the state's General Fund or other source for that specific purpose.

D. No monies from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund will be used for any programs that have been mandated on the state by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Regional Fisheries Management Councils, Sea Grant, the National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other programs that have been mandated on the state under the provisions and authority of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (commonly known as the 200-Mile Limit legislation), except as allowed in C. above.

Section III of the Model License deals with *HOW* the money will be spent, which is a very important consideration. Establishing the MRF Fund in itself is not enough to guarantee that we will receive any benefits from the money being spent, because our state bureaucracy could easily spend all of it for "administrative" purposes unless there are safeguards to prevent this from happening. Without such safeguards, we'll end up with a lot of bureaucratic pencil pushers who serve no purpose and provide no benefits other than to give some political appointees a good paying, cushy or no-show job. To prevent this from happening, the Model License has a formula budget on which the money will be spent on a percentage basis for specific purposes. No more than seven percent will be spent on Administration; eight percent on Enforcement; ten percent on Investigations and Management; and five percent on educating and informing the public about what "they" are doing. A full seventy percent of the money will be spent *directly* on projects that will improve recreational fishing facilities available for recreational fishermen. Things that can be touched because they physically exist, not in some bureaucrat's mind or paper "study" but in reality: launching ramps, ocean and inshore fishing piers, artificial fishing reefs, public docking facilities, aids to navigation and things like buoys marking wrecks and reefs, access to beaches, catwalks on bridges from where you can fish, etc.

This Section would also prevent the State government from taking money out of the MRF Fund and spending it on things that are already being paid for. The Model License provides that "*no monies will be spent from the MRF Fund for the use of facilities, or to pay for salaried personnel, that were being used or employed by the DEC prior to the establishment of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund.*" This is to prevent the State government from suddenly deciding that they are going to give us a bill for the office space that the DEC has been using in Stony Brook and the salaries of personnel who have anything to do with fish and saltwater in any shape, manner or form. Without this provision, saltwater sport fishermen would suddenly find themselves unexpectedly paying for the law enforcement people who spend all their time chasing clam poachers, etc. This Section also prevents the State from stealing money to pay for projects it is engaged on with Sea Grant, which are all 99.9-plus percent commercially oriented.

In Section III of the Model License there are also provisions that prevent the State from using the MRF Fund to pay for projects that are presently paid for without there being a license because they are government responsibilities which benefit all of the State's citizens, not just sport fishermen. Examples of this are the acquisition of tidal wetlands, park land purchases, investigations or management of shellfish, and biological research on marine finfish—which rightfully belongs to the Federal Government because it concerns migrating species that swim in the waters of more than one state, making it ridiculous for the individual states to do research on them due to the

(Continued on next page)

duplications of effort that entails. Section II also stipulates that no MRF Funds may be spent for any projects that have been mandated on the state that would have to be done whether there is a saltwater license or not. But all of the foregoing paragraph is not to say that the monies the state *does* spend on projects such as these shouldn't be disbursed and administered through the Marine Conversation Fund—they should be, *provided* that the monies are first appropriated from the general fund or other source and deposited into the MRF Fund. The reasons for this are contained in Section IV and Section V of the Model License.

IV. WHO WILL DECIDE WHAT THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES FUND WILL BE SPENT ON?

A. Establishment of the Marine Fisheries Council.

1. The *Marine Fisheries Council* shall consist of seven members, who shall be private citizens appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the state Senate.
2. Prior to being appointed to the *Marine Fisheries Council*, all nominees must be certified in writing as being competent and capable of representing marine recreational fishing interests by one or more of the following nationally recognized organizations:
 - a. The Sport Fishing Institute.
 - b. The International Game Fish Association.
 - c. National Coalition for Marine Conservation.
 - d. The American League of Anglers.
3. Of the seven members appointed by the Governor, two shall be appointed for a term of one year; two for a term of two years; and three for a term of three years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be made for terms of three years.
4. The Governor may remove any member of the Council for cause after a public hearing.
5. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred in attending meetings of the Council and in the performance of their duties as members thereof.
6. One member, by a majority vote of the members of the Council, shall be chosen as chairperson.

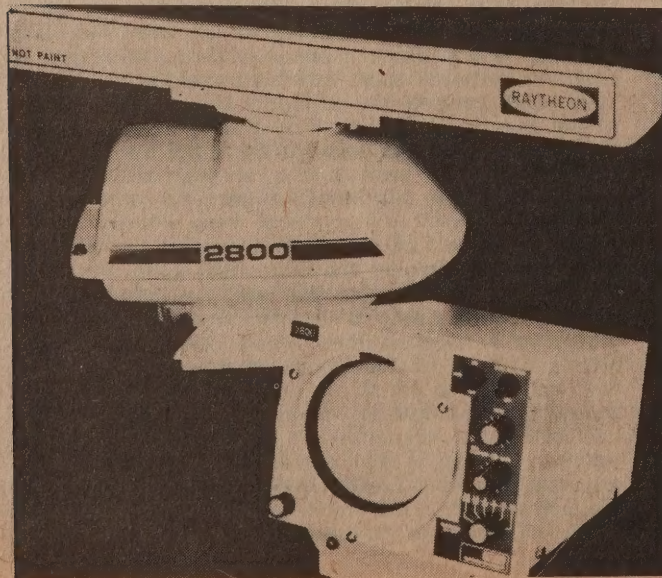
7. Five members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to transact its business.

V. WHAT WILL BE THE FUNCTION OF THE MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL?

The *Marine Fisheries Council* shall, with the approval and advice of the Director of Marine and Coastal Resources, appropriate monies from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund for the following:

- A. Facility development and maintenance of:
 1. Ocean Fishing Piers.
 2. Inshore Fishing Piers.
 3. Artificial Fishing Reefs.
 4. Boat Launching Ramps.
 5. Buoy Systems & Aids to Navigation.
 6. Public Docking Facilities.
 7. The development and maintenance of any other facility for use by recreational anglers.
- B. The acquisition of lands, waters or rights therein as required to improve access to the marine waters for recreational fishing by the people of the State.
- C. Investigations and management.
- D. Examine, consider, and make recommendations in any matters pertaining to the conservation and management of marine fisheries resources throughout the State, including proposed increases in license fees.
- E. Advise the Director on policies of the Division of Marine and Coastal Resources and in the planning, development and institution of the Division's programs.
- F. Submit to the Director any recommendations for new rules and regulations which the Council deems necessary for the proper operation of an effective marine fisheries program for the State.

The provisions of Section IV establishes the *Marine Fisheries Council*, which is the final (and perhaps most important) safeguard in the Model License to ensure that the monies are spent correctly. Even if Sections II and III were implemented, they would be worthless without Section IV to prevent the MRF Fund from becoming a political pork barrel for the politicians with



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the most influence at a given time. What we would see are things like \$1 million spent on a 550-yard-long pier constructed in four feet of water in a location that just happens to be the backyard of some influential politician. Naturally, the location would be in an area where a fish hasn't been caught in the last fifty years, so it would receive little use from sport fishermen. Naturally, our politicians would hate to see such a beautiful facility that has been paid for by the taxpayers go to waste, so "they" will quickly turn it into a semi-private yacht club for whichever local political party happens to be in office at the time.

That is an example of exactly the kind of projects we can expect to see if there isn't a Marine Fisheries Council formed like the one outlined in Section IV. This Council will consist of seven members, who will be appointed by the Governor. To discourage these appointments from being used as political patronage by the Governor, his nominees must be approved by the State Senate. To prevent the *Senate* from using the appointments as a political football to throw around to their friends, there is one further stipulation: all nominees for the Marine Fisheries Council would have to be "certified in writing as being competent and capable of representing marine recreational fishing interests by one or more of the following nationally recognized organizations: The Sport Fishing Institute, the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, or the American League of Anglers." Obviously, when one of these organizations receives a request from our Governor to certify one of his nominees, they will investigate the background of the person to see if that person is competent. Naturally, part of this investigation would be consultations with local sport fishing groups such as fishing clubs, the New York Sport Fishing Council, and local fishing columnists such as Frank Keating, Jerry Kenny, Nick Karas and gosh, maybe even...

Only by having the appointees chosen in this manner will we be protected from the Governor or his Appointments Officer from making another appointment such as Nancy Goell's—who used her credentials of a B.A. in English Literature to propel herself onto the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Council. This job was a real political plum, paying a few hundred bucks a day plus expenses. To further discourage Nancy Goell types from getting on the Marine Recreational Fisheries Council, members of the Council will serve without pay. All they will receive are the expenses they incur for

travel to the meetings of the Council. No lunch money, in other words.

Special note should be made that the word "advisory" has carefully been avoided in the name of the Council—and for good reason. Because if the duties are of an advisory nature, the advice is not binding and therefore is meaningless. "*The Marine Fisheries Council shall, with the approval and advice of the Director of Marine and Coastal Resources, appropriate monies from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund for the following*": In other words, the Director can't build anything unless he has the *approval* of the Council to spend the money needed for the project. So it will be the *Council*, composed of legitimate sport fishermen, who will be deciding where launching ramps and fishing piers will be built, not some political hack. Naturally, safeguards must also be made to prevent the Council from becoming power mad, so it will need the approval of the Director on any projects to be undertaken. But this approval by the Council only pertains to the seventy percent of the budget which will be used for improving facilities—the DEC can spend the rest of the money, within the budget's guidelines, however it pleases.

The Council will also make recommendations to the Director for "new rules and regulations which the Council deems necessary for the proper operation of an effective marine fisheries program for the State." It should be noted at this point that there is one thing that the Model License does *NOT* do: it *does not* give the DEC regulatory powers to implement rules and regulations without going through the legislative process. If the DEC wants to do something like place an eight inch minimum size limit on flounder, it would still have to get a bill passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, and so would the Council. So the Model License *DOES NOT* mean that saltwater sport fishermen would suddenly find themselves fishing under hundreds of rules and regulations that no one understands. If the DEC wants to raise the license fee, they would also have to get a new law passed by the State Legislature.

Next week in Part Five of this series, we will discuss what the political ramifications of implementing a saltwater license will mean—and what will happen if we *don't* get a license soon.



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FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

Captain Henry Harris formerly of **Freeport Boatmen's Association** has asked us to announce that he is now sailing his charter boat **SNAPSHOT** out of Star Island Yacht Club. Watch for the Snapshot ad to begin shortly.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** called to let you know that he is back in town and booking 1980 charters. The boat will be in fishing at the end of April. See ad for details.

The **Viking Fleet** reports that this past week's codfishing action off Block Island has been only fair, to the tune of 3-4 cod per person in the 5-10 lb. range. A few small to medium pollack are also being picked. The first Nantucket wreck trip of the 1980 season will be May 26. Calls should be directed to the Viking Fleet for those interested. In the meantime, Captain Paul Forsberg on the **Viking Starship** sailing out of Key West, Florida continues to enjoy strong catches of the huge bottom fish on the Dry Tortugas banks. See ad for details.

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait & Tackle** said that flounder have spread into the back bays but the Quogue Canal is still the top producer. On Sunday, he looked over a catch of 1/2 bushel made in just two hours by Don Matesic and Rodger MacDowell. The pair fished the ebb tide in the canal with worms and mussel chum and had fish up to 2 lbs.

The **Captain Clark II** will start sailing for flounder this Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30 and will start sailing on a daily basis on Good Friday, April 4. Clark Bellows has received good flounder reports from several private boats which have been fishing Peconic Bay and the Flanders Bay area.

MORICHES BAY

Andy at **Sea Tuck Cove Fishing Station** in Eastport called to tell us that the boats he had out on Sunday all came back with good catches. Action was best between the bridges at the eastern end of Moriches Bay. Boats were averaging 50 keepers apiece and it was roughly a 50-50 keeper/midget ratio. Clam or bloodworm on the hook along with mussel or clam chum did the trick on incoming tide all day Sunday. Fish

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Ed Sheehan and Ed Segers, both from New York City with 162 flounder taken at buoy 54 on bloodworms, clams and plenty of mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

are averaging 3/4 lbs. and they should fatten up in 2-3 weeks time.

East Moriches Bait and Tackle reported very good flounder fishing Sunday in the Quogue Canal, east of buoy 54 and near the second bridge. Some boats took as many as 150-160 fish on worms. Mussel and clam chum is required to score big.

Skidmore's Fishing Station told us that on Thursday, Ed Sheehan and Ed Segers of NYC fished buoy 54 to the tune of 162 flounder up to 2 lbs. 10 oz. They chummed heavily with mussels and took fish on both tides. On Sunday, Stan Wasserfall, Mike Wollin and Fred Clark landed 225 flatties at buoy 50 on incoming water. They used mussel bait and chum. Half of the fish were returned to the water.

Bob at the **HiWay Fishing Station** told us that despite more smaller fish starting to show, many boats still manage 50-80 keepers. Buoy 54 seems to be the best producer with worms and mussel chum accounting for the best scores.

EAST ISLIP

At the **Buoy Two Sport Shop**, Wally relayed word of some good flounder action in the Heckscher-Islip area on Sunday. Both worms and clams take fish while chumming and stirring the bottom greatly improves scores.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil of the **Casey Lee** tells us flounder fishing was good during the week and was okay Sunday as well. The weekday catches ran 6-15 keepers a man while Sunday's catch was more like 3-10 keeper flounder a man. Sizes have been excellent, fish averaging 1 1/4 lbs. with the pool fish always running 2 lbs. or above. The hotspots are just 15 minutes from

the dock says Neil on any moving water. Regular or red-dyed clam or bloodworms as hook baits do the job, and the boat is sailing now everyday.

Smoky's Bait and Tackle passed along news of a catch of 24 flatties made by Ed Whitney, John Santiago and Mark Careagalo. The trio fished buoy 4 off of Heckscher with worms and mussels and chummed with clams. Biggest flounder checked in at 1 lb. 13 oz. Anthony Bento and his father managed 30 fish up to 1 1/2 lbs. on the Heckscher grounds on worms and clams. Rich Ferri, aboard his Rum & Coke had 21 flatties in the same area on worms.

CAPTREE

Captain Marty of the **Jib Fleet** tells us he had fair flounder fishing during the week, fish all nice size up to the day of the windstorm. Catches at Heckscher were from buoys 4 to 2. Thursday's pool fish ran 1 lb. 15 oz. and 12 men had over 90 keeper flounder from 3/4 lbs. on up. Best was on the flood with clam and worm. Marty's wife, Lori, has just presented him with a brand new baby son who they have named James. Congratulations are in order.

The **Captain Scotty** managed a few cod during the week but lots of drops were necessary, so Captain George Tweedy is now switching to flounder, sailing 6AM daily. He'll also be sailing Saturday and Sunday afternoon trips at 2PM and also a two trip a day schedule for Easter Week. See ad for details.

The open boat **Captree Queen** reported the best flounder action of the season on Sunday. Captain George said that 30 fares landed over 350 flatties. Most were in the 3/4 to 1 1/2 lb. range with a few larger. John Brommer who was high hook for the day, had three double-headers among his catch. Fishing was done between Heckscher and Islip.

The **Jib V**, skippered by Captain Joe Pirozzi said that their catch for 8 men totaled over 100 keepers. On Sunday, ten anglers boated 150 flounder up to 1 1/2 lbs. Both clams and worms have been producing on the Heckscher grounds.

Captain Carl Bauer, of the **Capt. Whittaker** said that Sunday was one of the better days of this young season with some fares aboard landing as many as 30-35 nice flounder apiece. Quite a few fish in the one pound range with worms and clams equally effective. Carl fished buoy 2 off of E. Islip. The Captain found good fishing in the same area on Saturday despite the wind and snow. He also asked that we remind senior citizens that special discount rates are now offered every day of the week, including weekends. Also, the phone number listed under the party boat section of last week's Bay Fishing

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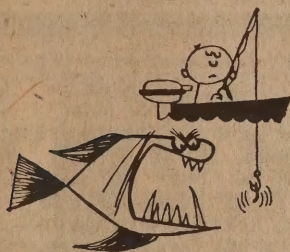
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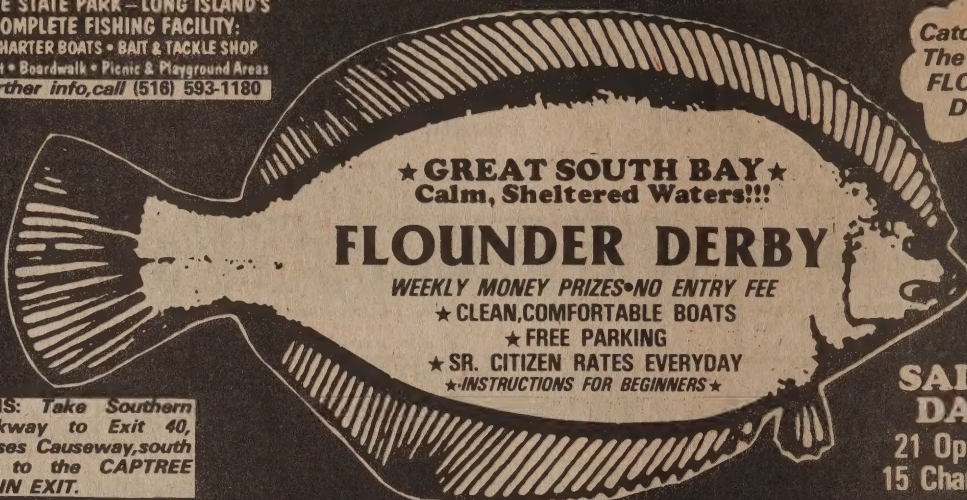
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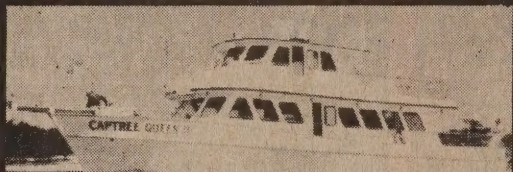
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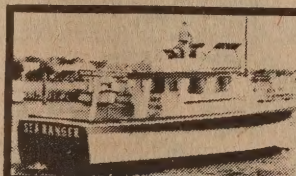
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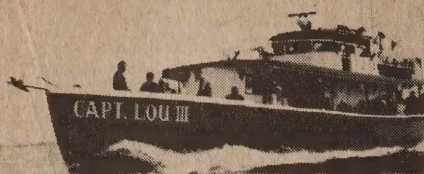
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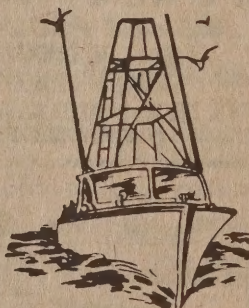
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EVERY DAY
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column should have read 669-6273.

Captain Rod of the open boat of the same name described Sunday's fishing in the Heckscher-Isip-area as "good, steady action, with very nice size fish." Both worms and clams have been producing well.

BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station wanted to relay word that they will be ready to go this week with a full supply of bait in stock.

At Augie's Bait & Tackle, Hal Kochanski knew that "Doc" Bonner and his son Tommy worked the Bay Shore flats with worm bait on Sunday and finished up with 30 flounder in the 3/4 to 1 1/2 lb. range. The two anglers used clam chum and stirred the bottom as well.

AMITYVILLE

Comb's Bait and Tackle told us that Jeff White and his father had 100 flounder on Sunday at Fort Neck Point using worm bait and mussel chum. Best flatfish action has been on the last of the flood and first of the ebb. Fishing the deep holes and chumming heavily greatly improves catches.

Dick Svoboda of the Babylon Tuna Club put 17 cod from 20-38 lbs. aboard his "Miss Marion IV" on Sunday. Dick ran to 110' of water, s.w. of Fire Island Inlet. Art Baldwin, Ed Boyer, Steve Ratner and George Huggler rounded out the crew.

SEAFORD

Pete and Ed, new owners of Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station had one boat out Sunday and a few keepers were brought back in with the catch being made at the 1st Wantagh Bridge on bloods, musse! and clam bait. The fish were 3/4 lbers.

John at Pop's Fishing Station reported 18 good size flounder for Mike Machassallo and John and Mike Mattera on Sunday. The trio fished Massapequa Pt. with worms and mussel chum. Also on Sunday, a Mr. Liss returned with a dozen nice fish. During the week, Mr. Lang and his grandson took 43 fish up to 2 lb. 4 oz. at buoys 13 and 14. This was on an ebb tide and worm bait.

Bob's Fishing Station told us that flounder were being taken in Mass. Cove and at Four Corners on worms, clams, and mussels.

Over at Capt. Eddie's, boats averaged 30-70 fish on Sunday. Art Richter and Bruce Perry had 70 flounder up to 2 lb. 1 oz. on worms and clams in Massapequa Cove. They chummed with both worms and mussels. Larry Rice and a friend returned with 40 fish from the same area on Thursday.

BELLMORE

John Zadrizil of Quack's Tackle

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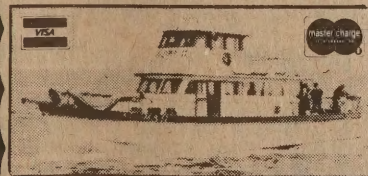
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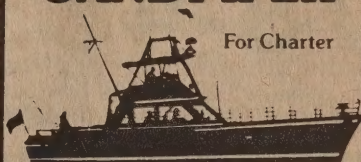
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BALDWIN

Andy, at Arthur Street Fishing Station told us that Middle Bay and Baldwin Bay have provided very good flounder fishing for those using worm or clam bait and mussel chum. Fish range from throwbacks on up to 2 lbs.

FREEPORT

Captain Tony on the Miss Freeport reports some nice flounder catches Sunday working Baldwin Bay and Freeport Bay. The pool fish went 1½ lbs. High hook was 17 keeper flounder for a customer by the name of Jerry. Thursday saw one fare bag a 3 lb. flounder. Thursday's high hook was 14 keepers. The water was still murky from the two day blow and rain. Tony says with a few calm days, the flounder action should be super.

Captain Paul Schmit of the Aloma II says there are lots of flounder around. Wednesday's count was 6-15 keepers a man, fish up to 2 lbs. On Sunday, all hands had a few fish to the tune of 200 keepers for 30 passengers. This was very good considering the rain and wind of Friday and Saturday. Action was in the Baldwin area, off the Coast Guard Station and also behind Wantagh. Fares picked fish at all spots. Hook bait was mussels, clams and blood worms with the larger flounder wanting clam.

Captain Sy Karlin of the Bluefin Fleet called to tell us that his new boat is proceeding right on schedule a d should be sailing up Woodcleft Canal right around the end of this month.

The Captain Al tells us floundering was good on Wednesday and even better on Thursday and the last two drops on Sunday's trip were strong. Al says he sees a fantastic flounder season coming up if we can just get a few days of good weather strung together. Most fish are running from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. with very few throwbacks. The fish do have any mud on them and there are some yellowtails mixed in. Al is working the area of Squaw Island.

The Captain Lou III notes that his ad last week should have read "first trip March 29." Apologies to anyone inconvenienced by our typographical boo-boo. The boat will start its first flounder trip of the year Saturday, March 29 and there will be a champagne party at the dock. See ad for details. Mike asked us to announce that his mate Doug Aires has just received his 100 mile/100 ton license. Nice going, Doug.

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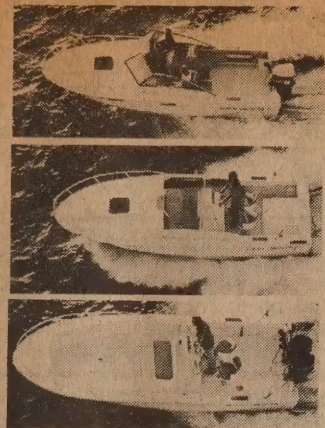
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At Hook, Line and Sinkers, Bob reported decent flounder action in Swift Creek and Long Creek. A good number of the fish are keepers. Sands and mussels have both been productive and mussel or clam chum is a big asset.

POINT LOOKOUT

According to Ed of Ed's Fishing Station, Sunday afternoon provided a flurry of action for those who stuck it out. Paul Ragonese, Al Guecia and Frank Fuscal took 40 nice flatties at buoy 19 on worm bait and mussel chum.

ISLAND PARK

Captain Clem of the Commodore reports that flounder fishing finally broke during the week with the nice weather and some nice catches have been made. Canarsie Angler Pete Deryck had 18 keepers plus a 2 lb. pool winner Sunday. The same day Larry Aloia also of Canarsie bagged 24 keepers. Action was best on the last of the ebb Sunday morning. Hotspots were Baldwin Bay at buoys 16 and 18 in the deep holes. Clem says there are good patches of fish here and there, so many drops are necessitated. Some of the fish are coming up out of the mud and some coming in from the inlet. Clem sees good action coming up very soon with calmer weather. Fish have been 3/4 to 1 lb. average with some 1 1/2-2 lbs. mixed in. Clam and mussel bait working best. Again, Clem sees super prospects ahead for flounder. From April 1 on, the boat will be sailing daily except Monday.

Charlie of Beckmann's Tackle Shop knew that some decent flounder were taken at the Magnolia Pier before the storm. Both worms and clams were producing fish.

LONG BEACH

Tom at the L. B. Sports Marina knew of some fair catches of flats made at Duck Point on Sunday with worms and mussel chum.

Tom says their boats have all been refurbished and he is well stocked with bait and chum. He is expecting a big flounder weekend if the mild weather continues.

ATLANTIC BEACH

At Henning's Station, Sy Rubin saw a catch of 6 flounder, all in the pound range, made by a private boatman in Schaefer's Creek on mussels. Sy looks for some good flounder action from here on in.

From Skippy's Tackle Shop, we learned that Dave Langdon, Don Langdon, Paul Panachuk and Joey T. returned from Piersalls with 20 flatties up to 1 1/4 lbs. Skippy called the floundering picky with a "few" fish around. Still some white perch in the Mill River of small jigs,



Bruce Dilorio shows off a 5 lb. 2 oz. pickerel along with a perch and some largemouth bass taken in Lake Ronkonkoma. Subscriber club photo.

spinners, and worms.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reported good flounder action at the North and South Channel bridges and also at Silver Hole. Sands, bloods, clams and mussels have been accounting for fish in 1/2 to 2 lb. category.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom of the Pilot II reported fair flounder fishing all week with catches running from 10 to 20 fish per person. On Sunday, the fishing in the Navesink River was super. Stan Falkowski took 76 flounder, of which he had 51 keepers in the 1/2 to 1 1/2 lb. range. Most fishermen aboard had catches that ranged 15-30 fish each on mussels and worms.

The Dorothy B told of great flounder fishing in the Shrewsbury River. On Sunday, father and son team of Louie Maldonado Jr. and Sr. totaled 54 flounder from 3/4 to 1 1/2 lbs. Catches ranged from 12-29 fish per person taken on sand worms and mussels.

Captain Butch of the Zephyr reported that the high winds on Saturday did nothing for the fishing. Sunday was a beautiful day, both in weather and fishing. The Shrewsbury River produced catches from 20-40 fish per person up to pool fish of 2 lbs. Excellent fishing was had on both stages of the tide with mussels taking bigger fish than sand worms.

Sal at Stella Maris Bait and Tackle knew that worms and clams were accounting for flatfish at Silver Hole and Hen Beach. He had no word on any whiting or ling action.

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SAG HARBOR

Captain Artie Latch of the open boat **Wilhelric** will be making the first voyage of the season on April 4 (Good Friday) and will be sailing at 7AM for big Gardiner's Bay flounder. The boat number is 516-728-2679.

GREENPORT

A. P. White Bait and Tackle asked us to let you know he is the charter booking agent for the Greenport Charter Boat Fleet and will also handle any questions you have regarding the sailing of the headboat **Peconic Star** and also the new 35' man charter boat **Blue Albatross**.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station reports that Sunday's anglers brought in some nice fat flounder going up to 1 lb. 14 oz. Action was at East Marion by the oyster factory. Another boat brought back another half bushel of keepers from Smith Cove (Shelter Island) near South Ferry. Several flounder were also taken off Cedar Beach and Radon Shores and off Goose Creek bridge. Bloodworms and mussels work best along with clam and corn chum.

NOYAC

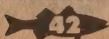
Noyac Marina called to say they will have all of their boats in the water for business on Saturday, March 29 and will have a full supply of worms on hand.

ROCKY POINT

Stan at Rocky Point Fishing Stop tells us that John Skinner worked the back of Mattituck Inlet on Thursday and with clam and mussel on the hook boated 45 flounders, all keepers averaging 1 lb. Randy Brown also on Thursday pounded Shinnecock Canal next to the locks (while closed) to the tune of 55' keepers from 3/4 to 1 3/4 lbs. On Sunday, Randy returned with a buddy and from a small skiff fished buoy 54 at Quantuck Canal (just west of Quogue Canal) for a super catch of 200 plus flounder averaging 3/4 lbs. They fished the deep hole with sand worms and heavy mussel chum. Mt. Sinai Harbor and Crystal Brook hollow are producing some fish and it looks like a strong season coming up.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraffis Fishing Station reports some nice fat flounder were taken Sunday at the old bridge site at



Setauket. The channel marker buoys outside the harbor also produced as did the entrance to Belle Terre (Pirate's Cove). Worms, worms and mussel and mussel chum were the ticket on ebb tide working best. These are mostly meaty 1 lbers., with some fish ranging close to 2 lbs.

KINGS PARK

Bob at O.K. Bait & Tackle called to say his boats are ready to go and most of them will be in the water by this weekend.

NORTHPORT

Tom at Bowman's Sporting Goods reports the flounder are at the dock in force though there are many throwbacks there are still a lot of 3/4 to 1 1/4 lbers. There are larger fish at Steers dock which has a 40' dropoff. Some 2 lbers. are being caught there. Sandworms are working best on a flooding tide. Boats are catching from 2-300' from shore by merely anchoring up and lowering a chum pot. Northport, Lloyd, Huntington Harbors, any sheltered area will produce fish right now. The Lilco plant has been producing some stripers in the 5 lb. range, but these fish are now moving towards Crab-meadow beach and the parking lot. Regulars have been taking 10-12 fish a tide. Half ounce white bucktails, Rebels, and now, worms have been working on incoming tide.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine at Four Winds Bait and Tackle tells of very good flounder catches this past week at Lloyd Harbor from various small boats, fish up to 1 1/4 lbs. The deep water is what to look for now. Sandworms are working well with mussel and corn chum helping. Duck Island is producing fish also, as is the dock at Huntington. Phil Guglielmo, local FINESTKIND 17 distributor on Sunday had 7 keeper flounder from 3/4 to 1 1/4 lbs. killing some time fishing off the Huntington dock using red dyed clam. This was on an incoming tide. Surf caster Hughie Chancy using sand worms accounted for several small schoolies earlier in the week at the Lilco outflow.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle tells of very good flounder catches at Lloyd Harbor and also off the Northport Dock. Fish running up to 1 1/2 lbs. on mussels, bloodworms and clam bait and also mussel chum. The keeper ratio is 50/50. Schoolie bass at Lilco on worms.

GLEN COVE

Dave at Glen Cove Sport Shop agrees that the flounder have arrived with half to 1 1/2 lbers. being caught

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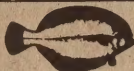
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BOATING

Flotilla 13-2 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will give a nine-lesson course on Boating Skills and Seamanship, beginning Tuesday, April 8, in the downstairs meeting room of the Sears department store on Sunrise Highway, Massapequa (across from Sunrise Mall). Classes will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., continuing on consecutive Tuesdays. The course is free, except for materials.

Flotilla 13-2 will also give a three-lesson course for young boatmen, beginning Wednesday, April 9; continuing on the next two Wednesdays, 8 to 10 p.m., at Berner High School, Carman Mill Road, Massapequa. There is no charge for the course or for materials used by the 10 to 16-year-olds taking the course.

For additional information on either course, call (516) 541-9838.



Shown is Frank Mann with a 43 lb. cod that took the pool aboard the "Marie III" out of Point Lookout. Bob's Fishing Club had this charter in which 16 cod were taken at the NA buoy from 10-43 lbs.

off the pier at Pryblil Beach on sand worms as far as 60' out. Best is on both sides of the high. Dave said he has loads of sand worms. He was also happy about the big turnout for the store's fly tying classes.

Captain Joe of the Lady Lil II called to report a good day with the Oyster Bay flounder on Sunday. Pete Lizza was high hook with 32 fish. The Captain said that 95% of the fish are keepers running from 1/2 to 1 3/4 lbs. Worms and clams were both effective with clams accounting for bigger fish.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reports a lot of flounder are being taken off the pier on City Island Avenue and also at the Lagoon at Orchard Beach in the 1/2 to 3/4 lb. range. Flounder are also being caught at the sea wall at Pelham bay station, many 3/4 lbs. included. Catches are being made best on sand worms on both sides of the high. Jack says he will have his rental boats in the water by this weekend. Jack says the bass should show up at Turtle Cove by next week as the killies which have been hibernating in the mud start to sample the spring waters.

The Ebb Tide II tells of good flounder fishing this past week at Oyster Bay and also Huntington Harbor. Though there are many small fish around there are sufficient keepers for all fares to be gathering up enough 3/4 to 1 lb. fish to make up a good day's catch. Sand worms seem to be working best and all fares are coming off the boat with fish.

Captain Howie Berlin of the Super Claire is now sailing out of City Island from Boats Inn dock, which is just about 100' after a sharp left once over the City Island bridge. First trip of the season will be April 1 and the boat will be sailing 8AM daily.

Pass It On...

IGFA & HALL OF FAME CONSOLIDATE FRESHWATER RECORD KEEPING

Acting in the best interests of angling, the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame (NFWFH) and the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) have agreed to consolidate the responsibility for establishing and maintaining world freshwater sport fishing records, effective immediately.

Prior to this decision, the Hall, a Hayward, Wisconsin based organization, and IGFA, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, had maintained similar programs. Both are nonprofit, public-supported foundations.

According to executives Elwood K. Harry (IGFA) and Bob Kutz (NFWFH), dual record keeping has been creating confusion and is not in the best interests of the industry and fishing fraternity.

During recent negotiations it was agreed that IGFA will be the sole body to accept and process applications for potential world all-tackle, line class and fly fishing freshwater records, and will honor the successful anglers in the records annals and with appropriate certificates. The Hall of Fame will honor those same records in its fact and photo gallery and give the angler the opportunity to display his record catch in its National fish museum.

All records established or pending by NFWFH during the prior five years of its programs are being turned over to the IGFA, which has recently established new freshwater record criteria to parallel its salt-water records program in effect since 1939. The Hall's records will be considered by IGFA for eligibility as existing records if they fit the new criteria, as has been done with records previously turned over to IGFA by **Field & Stream**, the Salt Water Fly Rodders of America, International, and the International Spin Fishing Association.

Both Mr. Harry and Mr. Kutz said that the Fishing Hall of Fame will recognize other outstanding angling achievements which fall short as world records by awarding appropriate certificates in a companion program now in effect.

Kutz and Harry emphasized that the negotiations to establish a single world source for freshwater record keeping came about after preliminary groundwork by **Field & Stream** magazine's Associate Fishing Editor Ken Schultz, and Larry Ramsell, the Hall's World Records Secretary.

"As the tender of world saltwater records for the past 41 years," Kutz said, "The IGFA is geared to do the

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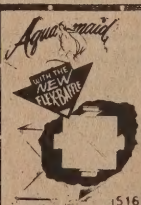
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most effective job in the realm of credible record keeping for freshwater sport-caught fish."

Harry added, "As a well established National Fishing Museum, the Hall is best suited to enhance the records program through its display facility."

The two organizational spokesmen concluded that, beginning immediately, all applications for world fish records and information should be sent to the International Game Fish Association at 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316, U.S.A. For other information, write: National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, Box 33, Hall of Fame Drive, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843.

TILEFISH FILMS

The first showing of films of tilefish underwater on the edge of the Continental Shelf will be one of the features at the Littoral Society's 10th annual "Your Future in the Sea" symposium in New York, Saturday, March 29, 1980.

The film and slide program on the sea, the shore, and its wildlife will be at the American Museum of Natural History from 1-5PM and 8-10:30PM.

Films of tilefish were taken over the past two years by Richard Cooper of the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory at Woods Hole. Cooper will be at the symposium in the evening to show and narrate the film.

Other evening events include study films of shark behavior (including hammerhead shark schooling) by Dr. Donald Nelson of California State College at Long Beach, underwater footage of Mid-Atlantic lagoon fishes by Bill Sargent of Boston, Mass., and a film by the Oscar Award winner, Robin Lehman.

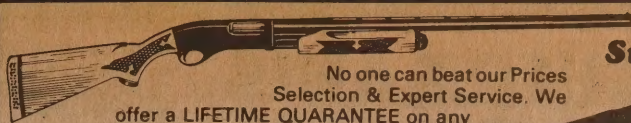
Afternoon speakers include: Dr. Paul Godfrey of the University of Massachusetts on barrier beaches; Dr. Eugenie Clark of the University of Maryland on sharks of the world; Sargent on oil spills, offshore trawling, and undersea mining; and Dr. Joanna Burger of Rutgers University on behavior of colonial waterbirds, including her recent studies of herring gull/laughing gull nesting competition in coastal marshes.

During the evening, the Society will also present its 10th James Dugan Award for services in the marine sciences.

The symposium is open to the public. Tickets are \$3.50 for the afternoon; \$5 for the evening, or \$7.50 in combination, and can be purchased from the American Littoral Society, Highlands, N.J. 07732 (201-291-0055).

CRAB OUTLOOK POOR

Researchers at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in the School of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary have begun making their predictions of Virginia's estuarine fish stocks and commercial landings of blue crabs in

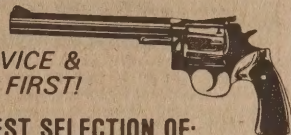


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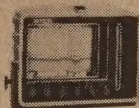
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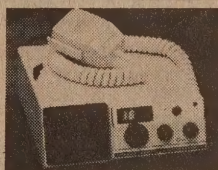
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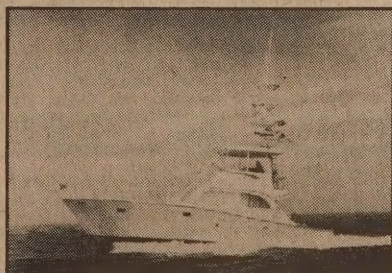
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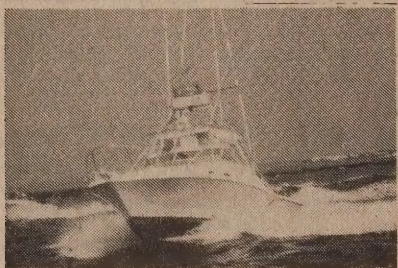
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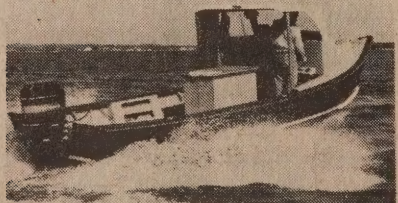


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Al Ristori's Fishing Machine: 1978 MAKO 21/1979 Evinrude 200 w/power trim for sale at end of season. Boat fully equipped and available with or without accessories: VHF and CB Radios; outriggers, downrigger, console cover, etc. Call: 201-334-8059, or 516-725-4200 and leave message at LIF.

1979 17' 6 AQUASPORT Family Fisherman; 115 h.p. Evinrude; 60 hours. Perfect condition. Navy top, bow rail, compass, bilge pump, tachometer, gauges, rod holders, recording depth finder, VHF. Shoreline galvanized trailer with power winch. \$7500. 516-541-8032.

GO FISHING TODAY—Alum skiffs 12' w/3.5, \$999; 14' w/5, \$1275; 15' w/15, \$1800. Mariner engines. Includes cushions, one rod and reel or 2 crab traps. 516-427-5242. 201-544-0323.

1967 CHRIS CRAFT CUTLASS 26 1978 250 h.p. SW-cooled engine. Tiller; stern controls. Anchor + 600' line; compass; CB; VHF; depth recorder. Much more; excl. cond. \$7500. 212-347-3852.

1962 PENBROOK 28' Full cabin. Flybridge; railings; head. No motor. Will sell as is, or dismantle for parts. MY 4-5964.



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Moor and board your boat in comfort and safety. Attaches to dock and snaps to transom tow eyes. Models for outboards and sterndrives to 24'. For information, write FROG HOOKS INC., P. O. Box 150F, South Salem, N.Y. 10590.

22' CHRIS CRAFT Cutlass cuddy; 1979, Brand new; never used. Private owner must sell. 516-734-5835.

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Detroit Diesel: Diesel parts and equipment at the lowest prices & fastest service on the East Coast. Many small diesels also available. OLSEN DIESEL ENGINE CORP., 60 South Montgomery Ave., Bay Shore. 516-665-5599.

FISHERMAN SPECIAL: 1974 21' 3" Fiberglass "T" craft boat I/O 185 h.p. installed 1979. Complete stern drive rebuilt - DF, CB, LP. Anchor 400' 3/8 Nylon, chest seats built-in for fishing tackle. Canvas top; compass and other gear. Price \$5500. 1974 Dixie Trailer for 21' boat. Tandem wheels, buddy bearings. Hot dip galvanized spare wheel; 9000 power winch. Removable lights. Price \$1000. Call 203-266-7470.

1976 SEARAY 22' Hdotop cabin; sleeps 5; toilet. Merc. I/O; VHF, DF, P/T Ect. Low hrs. Asking 17800. 585-1840.

FOR SALE: 1979 ROBALO R-236, cuddy, 175 h.p. Merc. Excellent condition. Outriggers; saltwater washdown; VHF; CB. Sitex recorder. Full canvas. \$13,500 FIRM. Call 261-2197 after 6 PM or 262-3658 9-5PM.

Center Console - 19' 6" WHITE MARLIN 115 h.p. Evinrude. Both 1976; 6 h.p. Johnson; Pony eng. 1974. Spray hood, Bimini top; winter cover. Lowrance recorder 1979. Weather CB. Galvanized Shoreline Trailer 1978 - new - 79. New Bearings, races, axle metalized. Spare 400' rope. Spotlight. Boat rewired; engines tuned, winterized. More. A-1. Ready to go. \$5000. 516-437-4612.

27' PEARSON SPORTFISHERMAN with tower. New FWC Chrysler V8 and trans. New shaft strut, & prop. New 55 channel VHS, DF, CB. Two Pompanette chairs. Engine alarm; all CG equipment. \$9000 FIRM. 516-581-8090.

1976 GRADY WHITE 20' 4". HATTERAS, Center Console 1976 200 h.p. Johnson Outboard, Shoreline Trailer, VHF, graph recorder, power winch, Compass; rod holders. Many extras. Garaged; immaculate. Must see. \$10,000. 516-249-2489.

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1974 CHRIS CRAFT CUTLASS, CC, power trim tabs, anchor and line; 307 CID Inboard; SS bow rail, antenna; Fiberglass and immaculate. Winter cover. 516-744-5724.

WELLCAFT V20 Cuddy 1976. Full canvas, DF, compass, antenna; rule pump; lines, with 1976 Mercury 175 h.p. 20 hrs. on '79. Powerhead. Asking. 16200. 516-472-0055.

GRADY WHITE 205 GULFSTREAM 1976; 20' Walkaround cuddy; 188 Merc I/O. Used three seasons; to hrs on professionally maintained economical, extremely clean family fisherman. Many extras. \$8500. 516-541-1469.

27' ULRICHSEN 2968, F/B, dual station, 1975 FWC 330 Chrysler. Sonar recorder, flasher, VHF, CB. Eves. 516-223-6051. Good offshore boat.

FIBERFORM 23' 1973 Flybridge 170 Volvo I/O Dual stations. All Fiberglass Cruiser. Extras. \$8500. 516-732-6173.

1971 SEA BIRD F.G. Sport Fish, twin 225 h.p. FWC Chryslers. Fish equipped. Good condition. \$18,500. Call after 6PM. 212- TA 4-7553.

SACRIFICE—Must Sell! '76 GRADY-WHITE 19' Angler 235 OMC, I/O. Excellent condition; loaded. Extras. 914-939-5962.

25' 1970 TROJAN. Hardtop inboard cruiser. Fiberglass hull; repowered Aug. '77. Chrysler 250 h.p. Digital D/S, Sitex white line fish recorder, elec. anchor winch; swim platform and ladder. Trim tabs; GBH meter & totalizer, speedometer/odometer; CB; rod holders, etc. Summer slip in Westchester available. Best offer. Buying larger boat. 914-937-1352.

24' CHRIS CRAFT CORSAIR, all F/G. New engine and Volvo outdrive 1979. Immaculate. Great fishing boat. Asking \$8500. Must sell. Offers. 516-223-0250.

24' APOLLO 1978 w/240 h.p. OMC engine I/O. Deep V hull design, cuddy cabin. Very low hours. Extras include new VHF radio, head, safety pack. Excellent condition. Priced to sell at \$9900. Call 212-242-2200 9-5.

21' 1973 SLICKCRAFT, bought new in '74. Cuddy cabin, I/O, 165 h.p. Excellent economy 60 gal. fuel capacity. Trailered and waxed each season. 300 hrs. on engine. Complete new canvas 1979. Standard gauges; VHF. Excellent fishing and family boat. Super mint condition. Must see. \$7800. 516-692-6967.

1975 STARCRAFT 14' Aluminum, 1976 35 h.p. Johnson, Holsclaw trailer; steering and controls, all accessories. Excellent condition. 286-2150 Eves.

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COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory, of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT—Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

23' MAKO I/B. Rigged for blue water fishing; 1975 Chrysler 225. Professionally maintained. \$8200. 516-589-7005.

Props.D 18x18 P L/R1-1/8" shaft used \$35; D 12x13P, 1" shaft used, \$20; D 13x12P, 1" shaft rec., \$40; 4.80x8 tire & rim. New, \$15. 516-333-4874.

BOAT INSURANCE—All risk; 12-month policy with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Quick quotations. Paul Krause, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, N.Y. 11795. 516-587-7837.

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DON'T HAUL—Complete underwater service. Props cleared; zincs changed; recovery. Hulls cleaned and surveyed. Insurance photos. Call ISLANDWIDE DIVERS LTD., 799-7969.

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One pair Pompanette fighting chairs. Cushions, rod holder, gimble, Dacron covers. \$500. 77 Chev. 3/4 ton, 4 wheel drive, Pick-up, 8' bed. Alum cap; auto. PB, PS. Myer Elec. Plow and sander. Extra h.d. Suspension. Very good cond. \$6200. 516-422-6164.

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Discount prices on Newell saltwater conventional reels. Superb American technology, design, and quality. Several boat, popping, and surf models. Tremendous distance casting with anodized balanced spools and ball bearings. Oversized, silky-smooth drags, workhorse guts. California party boat proven; two year mfg. guarantee. Retrieve M-4:1; F-5:1. Models 235F, 338M, 229F, 332F - \$75 each. 516-541-7377. Evenings.



SPORT SHOPS: Looking for fresh lively worms?
KING CRAWLER has them. Live delivery right
to your door. 238-9508. Bob. 254-2459, Dave.

WANT TO BUY: Used Penn International Reels.
Interested in #30 & #80. Also matching custom
rods. Call Lou: 212-383-2200, 9-5; 516-883-3711,
7-10.

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Bill: 212-649-2477.

REPS WANTED TO SELL the SPUG, SICO,
VEENY & the DEMO. WE HAVE THEM IN
STORES ALL ALONG THE EAST COAST. These
are the only metal lures that look and swim like
an injured fish. They zigzag with a continuous
wobbling, flashing action that fish can see from a
long distance. Because these bright chrome
plated lures zigzag and won't spin or plane up at
any speed or depth, makes them the very best
for trolling, long distance casts, jugging, carrying
surge-tubes, rubber fish tails, pork rind and bait.
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98, MILFORD, CT. 06460. "Gentlemen: Thank
you for forwarding the various Minnoe lures for
testing. We found the spug with the surgical
tube was most effective this Fall on bluefish and
striped bass. This lure continually outfished all
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Wooded, waterfront property for sale: 55x137. By
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bedroom, 2 bath, family room, fireplace, double
garage, 1/2 acre. Walk to deeded bulkheaded
boat slip. \$94,000. 516-928-1527.

1976 4-wheel drive **SCOUT TRAVELER** p/s, p/b,
a/c, roof rack, tire carrier, rustproofed. Low
mileage; regular gas, hitch. Beach equipped.
516-868-8927.

the Chesapeake Bay.

The extremely heavy rainfall from
January through May and in Sep-
tember and October, 1979 have had
different effects on the fishing stocks
and blue crab population.

According to W.A. VanEngel, who
heads crustacean research at VIMS,
landings of blue crabs in the next
twenty months, through August,
1981, will probably be the lowest in
more than twenty years.

However, this rainfall and the
warmer-than-usual temperatures
through January of this winter had
the opposite effect on the spawning
and survival of the 1979 year class of
finfish.

"Crabs hatched in 1978 will
provide the basis of the catch
through mid-August, 1980. Large
numbers of that year's hatch died or
failed to grow at a normal rate in the
first half of 1979. Catch from
September through December, 1979
was reported by the National Marine
Fisheries Service at 18 million lbs.—
eighty-five percent of the catch in
the same four months in 1978.

"From January through mid-
August, 1980 the catch is expected
to be about 25 million lbs. (about
two-thirds normal catch). The catch
trend will be light until May, then
gradually increase and peak in July
and August. Ninety-five percent of
the 1978 hatch will disappear by
September, 1980 from fishing and
natural causes," predicted Van-
Engel.

The catch of over 62 million lbs. of
hard crabs in 1979 was the largest
since 1974 and was considered a
good sign that the abundance of
crabs was returning to former high
levels after it has plummeted follow-
ing a ten-year series of disasters:
Kepone, Tropical Storm Agnes, the
demise of the eelgrass, the January,
1977 freeze, and the freeze of
February, 1978.

Commercial crab landings for
Virginia and Maryland for the twelve
months beginning September, 1980,
through August, 1981, are expected
to be less than 40 million lbs.—the
lowest that have occurred in over
twenty years. The harvest will be
supported by the hatch of 1979.

"In trawl surveys of the James,
York and Rappahannock Rivers, very
few juvenile crabs hatched in 1979
have been collected, approximately
one-tenth the number seen in the
fall of 1978. There is no certainty as
to what happened to the 1979 hatch.

"The near-record rainfall last
autumn reduced the salinity level in
the lower Bay. It dumped abnormal
amounts of sediment, chemicals and
organic matter into the water, and
produced near-record amounts of
water discharge at the mouth of the
Bay. Many crab larvae and juveniles
could have been flushed out of the
Bay. Whether any of them will
return to the Bay this spring will not
be known until further surveys by
VIMS scientists in the spring,"
explained VanEngel.

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEW-PORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	4:55	5:25	5:55	6:20	5:35	6:05	6:45	7:10	9:10	9:35	8:30	8:55	4:45	5:10	3/27
FRI.	5:40	6:10	6:40	7:00	6:25	6:50	7:25	7:45	9:55	10:15	9:15	9:35	5:30	5:55	3/28
SAT.	6:25	6:45	7:20	7:35	7:05	7:30	8:05	8:20	10:35	10:55	9:55	10:10	6:15	6:35	3/29
SUN.	7:00	7:25	7:55	8:10	7:45	8:05	8:40	8:55	11:15	11:25	10:30	10:50	6:55	7:10	3/30
MON.	7:40	7:55	8:30	8:45	8:20	8:40	9:15	9:30	11:45	11:45	11:05	11:20	7:35	7:50	3/31
TUE.	8:15	8:30	9:05	9:20	8:55	9:10	9:50	10:05	11:55	11:50	11:45	11:55	8:10	8:30	4/1
WED.	8:45	9:05	9:40	9:50	9:30	9:40	10:25	10:35	—	12:10	12:15	12:15	8:50	9:05	4/2
THUR.	9:20	9:40	10:15	10:25	10:05	10:05	11:05	11:10	12:15	12:40	12:30	12:55	9:25	9:45	4/3

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higginum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Dauids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

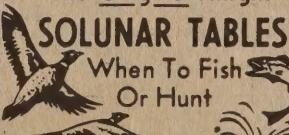
SUNRISE/SUNSET

3/27	5:52	6:18
3/28	5:50	6:20
3/29	5:48	6:22
3/30	5:46	6:24
3/31	5:45	6:25
4/1	5:43	6:27

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
			
3/16	3/23	3/1	3/9

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	1:20	7:55	1:50	8:15
Fri.	2:05	8:35	2:30	8:55
Sat.	2:45	9:15	3:10	9:35
Sun.	3:25	9:50	3:50	10:15
Mon.	4:00	10:40	4:30	11:00
Tues.	4:50	11:25	5:15	11:45
Wed.	5:35	—	6:00	12:10
Thurs.	6:25	12:35	6:45	1:00



The Daiwa Sealine®.

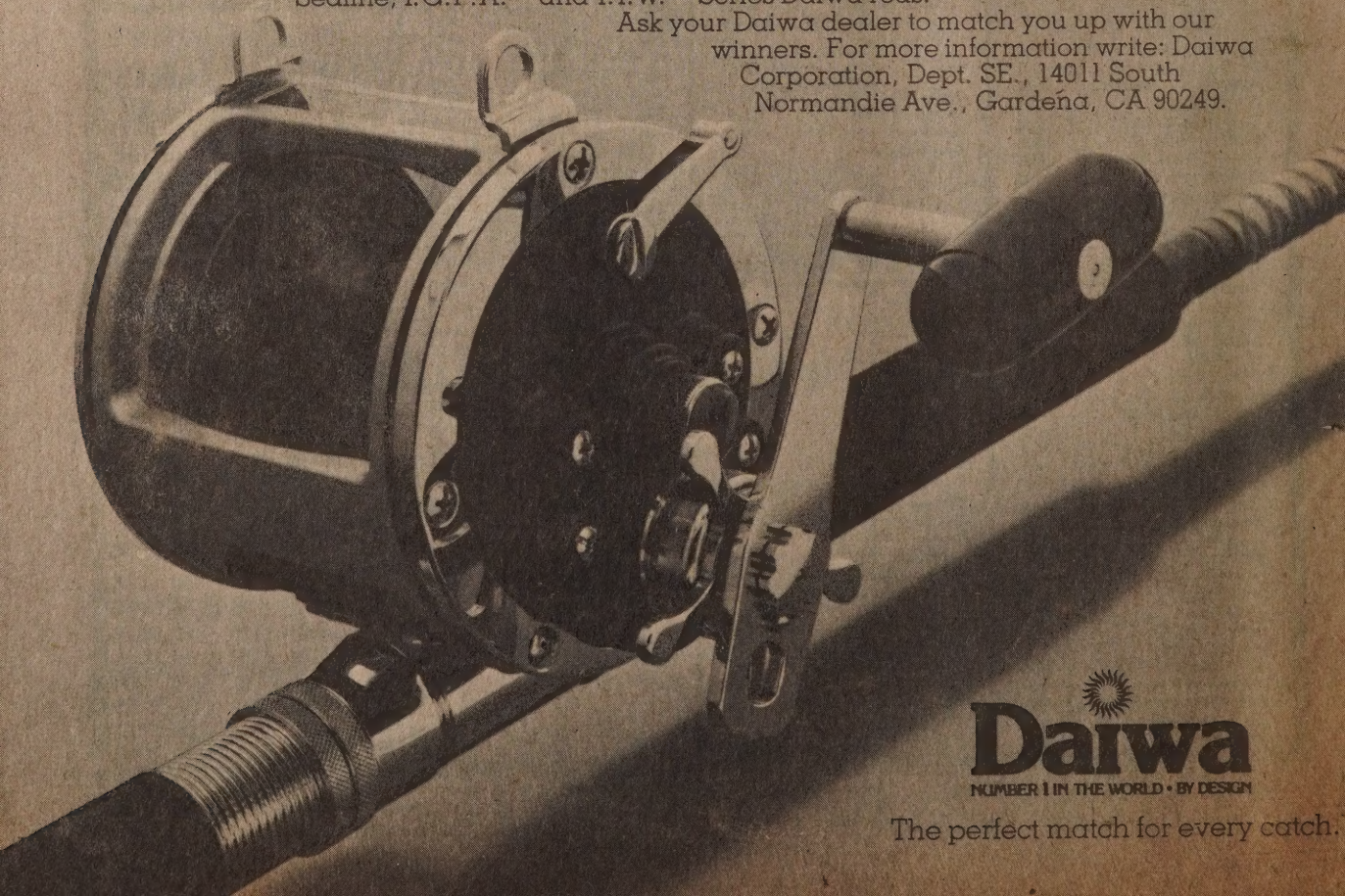
Last year, we re-invented the reel and now it's a real winner.

Last year Daiwa launched Sealine rods and reels. Sealine reels are the first reels in the mid-price range to offer such high-performance features as all-metal construction, one-piece frame and a smooth-running, surge free drag. Sealine won the confidence of seasoned fishermen and proved itself at sea in a single season.

16,000 pounds of hard fighting ocean fish were caught on a single, light duty Sealine reel. The reel withstood this punishment so well, it wasn't even necessary to change the drag washers. Practically overnight, Sealine became a favorite with serious ocean fishermen.

This year we've added the new 30H reel for heavy freshwater and light saltwater fishing, and the 900H for extra heavy-duty angling. We've also added two new heavy-duty models with stainless steel spools. Now there are 12 Sealine reels that can be matched to Sealine, I.G.F.A.™ and T.T.W.™ Series Daiwa rods.

Ask your Daiwa dealer to match you up with our winners. For more information write: Daiwa Corporation, Dept. SE., 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249.




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